

## Holocaust Memorial Day: Telegraph revealed Nazi gas chambers three years before liberation of Auschwitz

The Telegraph disclosed the existence of Nazi gas chambers and the “mass killing” of Jews almost three years before the liberation of Auschwitz on Jan 27, 1945



The gates of the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz in Poland Photo: Keystone/GettyImages



By David Blair

8:52PM GMT 26 Jan 2015

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It was under the headline “Germans murder 700,000 Jews in Poland”, that this newspaper reported the “greatest massacre in the world’s history” on June 25, 1942.

The story was remarkably detailed and accurate, yet the credit belongs neither to this newspaper nor the anonymous “Daily Telegraph reporter” who was the author. All the facts were supplied by Szmul Zygielbojm, a member of the Polish government in exile who made it his mission to inform the world about the Holocaust.

After arriving in London in 1942, Zygielbojm used a clandestine network of contacts across occupied Poland to gather eyewitness accounts of the fate of Jews. The particular information in The Daily Telegraph’s story was smuggled to London on microfilm hidden inside a key.

The newspaper was able to report that gas chambers were being used for industrialised murder from November 1941 onwards – and “an average 1,000 Jews were gassed daily”. The story methodically lists the death toll from massacres in seven different towns and cities.

“In many places Jews were deported to ‘unknown destinations’ and killed in neighbouring woods,” reads the story. “In Vilna 50,000 Jews were murdered in November. The total number slaughtered in this district and around Lithuanian Kovno is 300,000.”

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Post-war investigation established that hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed in mass shootings in Nazi-occupied areas of the former Soviet Union – just as this story made clear. “In Rovne the murders began early in November. In three days and nights nearly 15,000 men, women and children were shot,” reads the report.

In the pages of The Daily Telegraph, Zygielbojm succeeded in revealing the mass murder of Jews. But he was dismayed by the lack of public reaction.

As early as August 1941, Winston Churchill had denounced the atrocities against the Jews as a “crime without a name”. Yet Zygielbojm detected no wave of revulsion sufficient for the Allies to take

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special plans to obstruct the Holocaust.

The Telegraph chose to report the “greatest massacre in the world’s history” on page five of a six-page newspaper.

Zygielbojm’s informants were taking immense risks and their reports were meticulously accurate, yet he often encountered indifference, disbelief or even suspicion.

When The Telegraph’s story appeared, Zygielbojm’s wife, Manya, and their son, Tuvia, were still living in occupied Poland as prisoners in the Warsaw Ghetto. Both died during the razing of the Ghetto in 1943.

Crushed by this tragedy - and by the weight of indifference towards the fate of the Jews - Zygielbojm took his own life on May 11, 1943.

“The responsibility for the crime of the murder of the whole Jewish nationality in Poland rests first of all on those who are carrying it out,” he wrote. “But indirectly it falls also upon the whole of humanity, on the peoples of the Allied nations and on their governments, who up to this day have not taken any real steps to halt this crime. By looking on passively upon this murder of defenceless millions tortured children, women and men they have become partners to the responsibility.”

## GERMANS MURDER 700,000 JEWS IN POLAND

### TRAVELLING GAS CHAMBERS

**DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER**

More than 700,000 Polish Jews have been slaughtered by the Germans in the greatest massacre in the world's history. In addition, a system of starvation is being carried out in which the number of deaths, on the admission of the Germans themselves, bids fair to be almost as large.

The most gruesome details of mass killing, even to the use of poison gas, are revealed in a report sent secretly to Mr. S. Zygielbojm, Jewish representative on the Polish National Council in London, by an active group in Poland. It is strongly felt that action should be taken to prevent Hitler from carrying out his threat that five minutes before the war ends, however it may end, he will exterminate all Jews in Europe.

It was the avowed intention of the Germans from the early days of the war to exterminate the Jewish population on Polish territory.

In a 1940 New Year message Gauleiter Greiser said that the only use to be made of the Poles was as slaves for Germany, but for the Jews there was no future.

This extermination policy began in 1941 in Eastern Galicia, and everywhere the procedure has been the same.

Men and boys between 14 and 80 have been driven together into one place, usually a public square or a cemetery, and there killed, either by killing machine-guns or grenades. They had to dig their own graves beforehand.

#### HOSPITAL VICTIMS

Children in orphanages, pensioners in almshouses and the sick in hospitals have been shot. Women have been killed in the streets. In many places Jews were deported to "unknown destinations" and killed in neighbouring woods.

In Vilna 50,000 Jews were murdered in November. The total number slaughtered in this district and around Lithuanian Kovno is 300,000.

Practically all the Jews in Zyrardov, Lachowice, Mira, Kosow and other similar towns have been killed. In Rovne the murders began early in November. In three days and nights nearly 15,000 men, women and children were shot. Total deaths in other places have been:

Lvov, 30,000	Tarnopol, 5,000
Maliszew, 15,000	Brzezany, 4,000
Stetin, 9,000	Zloczow, 2,000
Kazodowne, 4,000	

#### SLAUGHTER BY GAS

In November the slaughter of Jews by gas in the Polish territories incorporated in the Reich also began.

A special van fitted as a gas chamber was used into which were crowded 80 victims at a time. The bodies were buried in special graves dug in the Lubardzki Forest.

On an average 1,000 Jews were gassed daily. In Chelmno from November last to March 5,000 from four towns, together with 35,000 from the Lodz ghetto, and a number of typists were murdered in this way.

In February the extermination of Jews started in the so-called General Government, the eastern part of Poland, not incorporated in the Reich. The Gestapo paid daily visits to the Jewish quarters and killed people systematically in the streets and houses.

In March 25,000 Jews were deported from Lublin in sealed wagons to an "unknown destination." All trace of them has been lost. About 3,000 more were put into barracks in a Lublin suburb. Now there is not a single Jew there.

In Cracow during March 50 men on a proscribed list were shot outside their homes. A similar number of men and women were killed outside their street doors during an arranged night of terror in the Warsaw ghetto. All social groups in the ghetto were affected. More such nights are expected.

The Warsaw ghetto, actually an extensive concentration camp, houses 600,000 Jews on an average of 19 to a room. Before the war, when the district had twice as many houses, the total population was 130,000.

All children under five and all adults over 50 are refused medical supplies. This means that only a minimum of aid reaches the inside of the barrier to allay the ravages of typhus and typhoid.

According to statistics issued in Poland by the German authorities the number of funerals from the Warsaw ghetto rose from 900 in January, 1941, to 5,630 in August.

Statistics available from secret sources in Poland show that during the whole year there were no fewer than 76,000 funerals. A large proportion of the deaths were due to starvation.

In the three years 1939-1941 the number of deaths in Warsaw alone rose from 7,650 to 42,239. The Jewish population of the ghetto had risen in that time from 375,000 to 407,000 through the influx of Jews deported from other provinces and countries.

I understand that the Polish Government intends to make the facts in this report known to the British and Allied Governments.

## 100 AIRFIELDS IN 3 MONTHS

### AUSTRALIA'S FEAT

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

Brig.-Gen. Hugh J. Casey, Engineer Officer at Gen. MacArthur's headquarters, revealed to-day that at least 100 aerodromes had been built for the Allied Air Forces in Australia in the past three months.

"Requirements of Australia's huge construction programme," he added, "include improvement to port facilities, depots for reserve supplies, more roads and railway sidings. Because of lack of labour, plant and material it is necessary to confine works to bare essentials."

Major-Gen. G. H. Brett, C-in-C. Allied Air Forces in Australia, writing in the Melbourne Herald to-day, says: "We have been promised a flood of aircraft from Britain, the United States and Canada—already it is assuming massive proportions."

Reuter.



# Atrocity Propaganda in Both World Wars : The Little-Known Origins of the German Gas Chambers

## An Enlightening Parallel

The Daily Telegraph, March 22, 1916, p. 7

### ATROCITIES IN SERBIA.

**700,000 VICTIMS.**

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

ROME, Monday (6 45 p.m.).

The Governments of the Allies have secured evidence and documents, which will shortly be published, proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of horrible crimes in Serbia, where the massacres committed were worse than those perpetrated by Turkey in Armenia.

The Italian Government has to-day published the testimony of two Italian prisoners who escaped from Austria through Serbia, and took refuge in Roumania. What these two prisoners saw and learned, however, was nothing compared with the evidence supplied by the Serbians themselves, and communicated by M. Paotich to the Italian Government and to the

**False Atrocity Propaganda**

Pope. According to reliable information, the victims of the Austrians and Bulgarians exceeded 700,000. Whole districts, with towns and villages, have been depopulated by massacres. Women, children, and old men were shut up in the churches by the Austrians, and either stabbed with the bayonet or suffocated by means of asphyxiating gas. In one church in Belgrade 3,000 women, children, and old men were thus suffocated.

Serbian refugees, not on oath, have stated that they were present at a distribution of bombs and machines for producing asphyxiating gas to the Bulgarians by the Germans and Austrians, who instructed the former how to utilize these instruments to exterminate the Serbian population. The Bulgarians used this method at Nish, Pirot, Prizrend, and Negotin, the inhabitants of which places died of suffocation. Similar means were employed by the Austrians in several parts of Montenegro.



**Different times, same lie**

The Daily Telegraph, June 25, 1942, p. 5

### GERMANS MURDER 700,000 JEWS IN POLAND

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More than 700,000 Polish Jews have been slaughtered by the Germans in the greatest massacre in the world's history. In addition, a system of starvation is being carried out in which the number of deaths, on the admission of the Germans themselves, bids fair to be almost as large.

The most gruesome details of mass killing, even to the use of poison gas, are revealed in a report sent secretly to Mr. S. Zygielboim, Jewish representative on the Polish National Council in London, by an active group in Poland. It is strongly felt that action should be taken to prevent Hitler from carrying out his threat that five minutes





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## FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT.

Viscount Bryce presided last evening at the Queen's Hall over the first of two mass meetings convened by the "Fight for Right" movement. In explaining its objects, Viscount Bryce said the war was one for principles. It was, as far as he could remember, the only war for principles which had been waged in Europe for centuries. We did not expect this war. We did not wish for it, and materially we had a great deal to lose by it. We had suffered unexampled sorrows. We had lost a great part of the finest element of our population greater than England had ever lost before; more than in the wars of a whole century. We were defending the rights of humanity, which were endangered by methods which threatened to throw us back into the ages of primitive barbarism.

We carried this war on not so much against the German people as against the German Government. We did not desire to destroy the German people, or dismember the German Empire. All we desired to do was to break and discredit the domination of an unscrupulous military caste, a caste which was hostile to liberty; a caste which held the German people in thralldom; and to give the German people the means of abolishing a detestable system and vindicating liberty for themselves. The "Fight for Right" movement sought to make people feel that these were the principles and motives and aims with which we entered the war, and in which we ought to carry the war through. (Cheers.)

In the course of the evening a stirring new song, which Sir Edward Elgar has specially composed for the movement, was sung by Mr. Gervase Elwes.

## ARMY'S NEED OF MEN

### CONFERENCES RESUMED.

Conferences at the War Office on the general position of recruiting were continued yesterday. Representatives from the various Government departments interested were present. A general understanding now exists between representatives of industry and commerce and the military authority, a news agency states, but upon certain aspects of the question final arrangements have yet to be made. Nevertheless, it is not expected that the further call to married men will long be delayed.



# SERB MASSACRES OUTDO ARMENIA, REPORTS PROVE

**700,000 Slaughtered by Austrians and Bulgars—3,000 Suffocated in Church.**

Rome, March 22.—The governments of the allies have secured evidence and documents which will shortly be published, proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of horrible crimes in Serbia, where massacres worse than in Armenia were perpetrated.

According to the evidence which the Serbians have communicated to the Italian government and the pope the victims exceeded 700,000. Whole districts and towns were depopulated. Women, children and old men were shut up in a church by Austrians and either bayoneted or suffocated by asphyxiating gas.

In one church in Belgrade, it is alleged, 3,000 women, children and old men were suffocated.

The Serbian refugees stated that they were present when bombs and machines for producing asphyxiating gas were distributed to the Bulgarians.

**Sir Sam Says He Will**

# POSSESS PROOF OF CRIMES IN SERBIA

**Entente Governments To Publish Details of Austrians' and Bulgarians' Conduct.**

Rome, March 22.—The governments of the entente nations have obtained evidence and documents, which shortly will be published, proving that the Austrians and Bulgarians were guilty of horrible crimes in Serbia, where massacres as bad as those in Armenia were carried out.

According to the evidence in the hands of the Italian government, the victims exceeded 700,000. Whole districts and towns were depopulated. Women, children and old men were shut up in a church by Austrians and either bayoneted or suffocated with asphyxiating gas.

In one church in Belgrade, it is stated, 3,000 women, children and old men were suffocated. Serbian refugees stated that they had been present when bombs and machines for producing asphyxiating gas were distributed to the Bulgarians.

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**WHOLESALE MASSACRES.**

A Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence in documentary form proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding the Turkish massacres in Armenia. The Servian Premier has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims, and whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men in churches, where they stabbed them with bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church in Belgrade. The Bulgarians also suffocated many Servians at Nish, Pirot, Prizend, and Negotin. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/15394869>

*The North Western Courier* (Narrabri, Australia),  
March 22, 1916, p. 2

**THE BALKAN CAMPAIGN**

**OUT-DOING THE TURKS  
AUSTRO-BULGAR ATROCITIES**

London, March 22

The Rome correspondent to the "Daily Telegraph" states that the allies will be shortly publishing documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria are guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those committed by Turkey in Armenia. The Serbian Premier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs have communicated to Italy and to the Pope testimony showing there were 700,000 victims, and whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men and stabbed them to death with their bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. 3,000 persons were suffocated in one church in Belgrade.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/7365769>

*The Northern Times* (Carnarvon, Australia),  
March 25, 1916, p. 3

**SERBIANS MASSACRED.**

LONDON, Tuesday.

A Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding Turkey's massacres in Armenia.

The Servian Premier has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children and old men in the churches and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church in Belgrade. The Bulgarians also suffocated many Servians at Nish, Pirot and Prizend. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/20985304>

*The Inverell Times* (Inverell, Australia),  
March 24, 1916, p. 2

**THE EVENING STAR**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1916

**MORE AUSTRO-BULGARIAN  
ATROCITIES.**

**REVOLTING STORIES FROM  
MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA.**

**WORSE THAN THE TURKS AND  
THE ARMENIANS.**

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" correspondent at Rome says that the Allies will shortly publish evidence, the documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of Turkey in Armenia.

General Pasitch has communicated with Italy and the Pope, showing that there were 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians took prisoners women, old men, and children and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. 3,000 were suffocated in one church in Belgrade. Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distributing among Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them as to the use. Bulgarians suffocated a large number of people at Nish, Pirot, Prezerend, and Regoterep. The Austrians employed similar methods at Montenegro.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/22566774>

*The Evening Star* (Boulder, Australia),  
March 22, 1916, p. 1

**THE ALBANY ADVERTISER  
SATURDAY MARCH 25 1916**

**AUSTRO-BULGAR ATROCITIES.**

**WHOLE DISTRICTS DEPOPULATED**

London, Wednesday.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent reports:—"The Allies will shortly be publishing evidence contained in documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria are guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding in horror those of Turkey in Armenia. The Servian Premier (M. Pasitch) has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims of Austro-Bulgarian brutality, whole districts being depopulated. The Austrians imprisoned women, children and old men in churches, where they stabbed them with the bayonet, or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand persons were suffocated in one church in Belgrade. Servian refugees report having seen the Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them in the use of the machines. With these the Bulgarians suffocated many helpless Servians at Nish, Pirot, Prizrend and Negotin. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro."

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/6300820>

*The Albany Advertiser* (Albany, Australia),  
March 25, 1916, p. 3

**THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1916.**

**THE CAIRNS POST**

**WHOLESALE MURDER.**

The Huns' Junior Branch.

Cawnpore Outdone.

LONDON, March 22.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent says the Allies are shortly publishing evidence in the form of documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding Turkey's in Armenia.

The Serbian Premier, M. Pasitch, has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing the murder of 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians took prisoner women, children and old men, put them in the churches and stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church at Belgrade.

Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them how to use them. The Bulgarians suffocated many at Nish, Pirot, Prizrend and Negotin. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/3895350>

*The Cairns Post* (Cairns, Australia), March 23, 1916, p. 5



UNHAPPY SERBIA.

MURDER AND MASSACRE BY ENEMY.

A Rome correspondent says that a statement will shortly be published, which gives undisputable evidence that the Austrians and Bulgarians have murdered and massacred in Serbia on a scale which exceeds Turkish massacres in Armenia. The Servian Premier says that testimony shows that there were 700,000 victims. One whole district was thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church in Belgrade. The Bulgarians also suffocated many Servians at Nish and other places, while the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/24278177>

*The Lithgow Mercury* (Lithgow, Australia),  
March 22, 1916, p. 2

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1916.

THE KALGOORLIE MINER.

OCCUPATION OF SERBIA

ATROCIOUS MASSACRES

London, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph" correspondent says that the allies will shortly be publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding in horror those of Turkey in Armenia.

The Serbian Premier, M. Pasitch, has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that 700,000 persons were the victims of massacre, and that whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians, making prisoners of women, children, and old men on various charges, stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church in Belgrade.

Serbian refugees report that they saw Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many in Nish, Pivot, Prizrend, and elsewhere. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/9022073>

*The Kalgoorlie Miner* (Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Australia), March 23, 1916, p. 5

Friday, March 24, 1916

Murder and Massacre

AUSTRIAN ATROCITIES IN SERBIA.

WORSE THAN ARMENIA.

The Allies are preparing for publication a mass of evidence and documents showing that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia that exceeded in cruelty even Turkey's Armenian atrocities. M. Pasitch, the Serbian Premier, has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims of these massacres, whole districts being depopulated.

The Austrians imprisoned women and children and old men in churches, and either stabbed them to death with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand persons were suffocated in one church at Belgrade.

Serbian refugees report having seen the Germans and Austrians distributing among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and giving instruction in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated a great many persons in Nish, Pirot, Prizrend, and Negotin. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/11705636>

*The Farmer and Settler* (Sydney, Australia), March 24, 1916, p. 1

ATROCITIES IN SERBIA.

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<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/11582262>

*The Muswellbrook Chronicle* (Muswellbrook, Australia), March 25, 1916, p. 2

Atrocities in the Balkans.

SERBIANS MASSACRED.

INDICTMENT OF AUSTRIANS AND BULGARIANS.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent says that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding Turkey's Armenian atrocities. The Serbian Premier (M. Pasitch) has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that 700,000 victims were slain, and whole districts thus depopulated. The Austrians shut up the women, children, and old men in the churches, and stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church at Belgrade.

Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distributing among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many people at Nish, Pirot, and Prizrend. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/20205807>

*The Daily Post* (Hobart, Australia),  
March 23, 1916, p. 5

MANY MASSACRES.

BY AUSTRIA AND BULGARIA.

LONDON, Tuesday.

The Rome correspondent of the London "Daily Telegraph" states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia that exceeded in cruelty even Turkey's Armenian atrocities.

M. Pasitch, the Serbian Premier, has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims, whole districts being thus depopulated.

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<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/15147925>

*Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* (Newcastle, Australia),  
March 23, 1916, p. 5



**SERBIANS MASSACRED.****AUSTRO-BULGARIAN ATROCITIES.****WORSE THAN TURKEY'S ACTION  
IN ARMENIA.****700,000 VICTIMS.****WHOLE DISTRICTS DEPOPULATED  
LONDON, Tuesday.**

The Rome correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia, exceeding Turkey's massacres in Armenia. M. Nikolas Pashtich (Premier of Serbia) has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims, and whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of the women, children, and old men in the churches, and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church at Belgrade. Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many persons at Nish, Pirot, Prizrend, and Negotin. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/23261687>*The Dalby Herald (Dalby, Australia),  
March 25, 1916, p. 4*

Friday, March 31, 1916.

**THE SOUTHERN CROSS.****Atrocities in Serbia.**

Everywhere in Rome (writes the correspondent of the "Catholic Times") one meets Serbians. The poor fugitives walk sadly about the streets, viewing the churches, monuments, and other objects of interest. Seventy of the Serbian deputies and two ex-Ministers of the Government are among the crowd of fugitives. Italy has received her visitors with generous hospitality, and everything likely to allay their sorrows is done for them.

The Rome correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph" declares that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents which will go to prove that the Austro-Hungarians and Bulgarians have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding in horror the atrocities of the Turks in Armenia. The Serbian Premier (M. Pasitch) has communicated to the Italian Government and the Pope testimony showing that 700,000 victims have perished, and that whole districts have thus been depopulated. The Austrians shut up women, children, and old men in the churches, and then stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand Serbs were suffocated in one church in Belgrade. Serbian refugees report having seen the Germans and Austrians distributing among the Bulgarians machines for producing the gas, and instructing the Bulgars in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many persons at Nish, Pirot, Prizrend, and Negotin, and the Austrians employed similar means against the Montenegrins.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/19548916>*The Southern Cross (Adelaide, Australia),  
March 31, 1916, p. 2***SERBIANS MASSACRED.****AUSTRO-BULGARIAN ATROCITIES.****WORSE THAN TURKEY'S ACTION  
IN ARMENIA.****700,000 VICTIMS.****WHOLE DISTRICTS DEPOPULATED  
LONDON, Tuesday.**

The Rome correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia, exceeding Turkey's massacres in Armenia. M. Nikolas Pashtich (Premier of Serbia) has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims, and whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of the women, children, and old men in the churches, and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church at Belgrade. Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many persons at Nish, Pirot, Prizrend, and Negotin. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/23440912>*The Beaudesert Times (Beaudesert,  
Australia), March 24, 1916, p. 4*THE ADVOCATE AND TIMES,  
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1916.**ATROCITIES IN SERVIA****DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE TO  
BE PUBLISHED.****"WORSE THAN ARMENIA."**

LONDON, Tuesday, 4.10 p.m.—The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly be publishing documentary evidence proving that the Austro-Bulgars are guilty of massacres in Servia, exceeding those of Turkey or Armenia.

M. N. Pashitch, the Premier of Servia, has communicated with the Pope, giving testimony showing there had been 700,000 victims, and that whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians have been imprisoning women, children and old men, placing them in churches and stabbing them with the bayonet or suffocating them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church at Belgrade. Servian refugees report having seen Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them in the use of these machines. The Bulgarians suffocated many at Nish, Pirot and Prizrend. It is stated that the Austrians employed similar means with the Montenegrins.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/5170672>*The North Western Advocate and The Emu Bay  
Times (Devonport and Burnie, Australia),  
March 23, 1916, p. 1***AUSTRO-BULGAR FIENDS.****700,000 SERBS BUTCHERED OR  
GASSED.**

The Rome correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" reports that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those perpetrated by Turkey in Armenia.

The Serbian Premier (M. Pasitch) has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there have been 700,000 victims of the brutality of the invaders. Whole districts have been thus depopulated. The Austrians imprisoned women, children and old men in churches, and then proceeded to stab them to death with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand non-combatants were suffocated in one church in Belgrade.

Serbian refugees report having seen the Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarian soldiers machines for producing gas, and instructing them in the use of these weapons of "frightfulness." The Bulgarians subsequently suffocated many persons at Nish, Pirot, Prizrend and Negotin. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/13465177>*The Geelong Advertiser (Geelong, Australia),  
March 23, 1916, p. 3*THE MARYBOROUGH CHRONICLE,  
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1916.**BALKAN STATES.****EVIDENCE OF WHOLESALE  
AUSTRO-BULGARIAN  
MASSACRES.****SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND  
VICTIMS IN SERBIA.****ALLIED FORCES READY FOR  
ACTION.**

LONDON, March 21.

The Rome correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" states the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria are guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding Turkey's massacres in Albania. Nicholas Pashitch, the Premier of Serbia, has communicated with Italy and the Pope details showing that there were 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of the women, children and old men in the churches and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. There were 3,000 suffocated in one church at Belgrade. Serbian refugees reported having seen Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many persons at Nish, Pirot, Prizrend, and Legotin. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

PARIS, March 21.

The "Paris Figaro" states that the Allies' forces at Salonica are prepared for action, and the military chiefs and representatives of the Allies are going to decide Germany's fate.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/17738046>*Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and  
Burnett Advertiser (Maryborough,  
Australia), March 23, 1916, p. 4*



CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1916.

**THE BALKAN HORRORS.**

700,000 MASSACRED

ARMENIAN ATROCITIES  
ECLIPSED

WHOLE DISTRICTS DEPOPULATED

Received this day, 8.5 a.m.

London, Tuesday

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent says the Allies are shortly publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch has communicated with Italy and the Pope giving testimony showing there were seven hundred thousand victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians took prisoner women, children, and old men in churches and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church. Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many. Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/king-country-chronicle/1916/03/22/5>  
King Country Chronicle (New Zealand),  
March 22, 1916, p. 5

THE RANGITIKEI ADVOCATE. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1916.

# ATROCITIES IN SERBIA

**HUNS MASSACRE 700,000 SERBIANS.**

**MORE ENEMY ATROCITIES.**

FRIGHTFUL MASSACRES OF  
SERBIANS.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN STABBED  
AND POISONED.

WHOLE DISTRICTS DEPOPULATED.

London, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly be publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there have been seven hundred thousand victims, whole districts having thus been depopulated.

The Austrians shut up women, children and old men in churches and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas.

Three thousand were suffocated in one church. Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them how to use them. The Bulgarians suffocated many and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/rangitikei-advocate-and-manawatu-argus/1916/03/22/5>

The Rangitikei Advocate and  
Manawatu Argus (New Zealand),  
March 22, 1916, page 5

THE HAWERA AND NORMANBY STAR.  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1916.

**THE BALKANS.**

AUSTRO-GERMAN OUTRAGES IN  
SERBIA.

GHASTLY ALLEGATIONS MADE.

SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND  
VICTIMS MASSACRED.

(Received March 22, 10.30 a.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence from documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those committed by the Turks in Armenia.

M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were seven hundred thousand victims.

Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children and old men in churches, and stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among Bulgarians machines for producing gas, which they instructed them how to use.

The Bulgarians suffocated many people and the Austrians employed similar means at Montenegro.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/hawera-normanby-star/1916/03/22/8>

The Hawera & Normanby Star (New Zealand),  
March 22, 1916, page 8

**FEARFUL ATROCITIES IN SERBIA**

**MASSACRED.**

**FEARFUL INDICTMENT.**

**SERBIA'S AWFUL PLIGHT.**

**WHOLE DISTRICTS DEPOPULATED**

By Telegraph—Press Association—Copyright.

(Received March 22, 11 a.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent says that the Allies will shortly be publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding Turkey's atrocities in Armenia.

M. Pasitch in communications to Italy and the Pope gives testimony showing 700,000 victims. Whole districts have thus been depopulated, the Austrians taking prisoner women, children and old men. These were placed in churches and the Austrians stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Serbian refugees report seeing the Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing

their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many, and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/star/1916/03/22/1>  
The Christchurch Star (New Zealand),  
March 22, 1916, p. 1

THE WAIKATO TIMES,  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1916

**MASSACRES IN SERBIA**

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

AUSTRO-BULGARIAN EXCUSES.

WHOLE DISTRICTS DEPOPULATED

Received March 22, 9.55 a.m.

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent in Rome states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence by documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia.

M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims, whole districts thus being depopulated. The Austrians imprisoned women, children and old men in the churches and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas, 3000 being suffocated in one church. Serbian

refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them in its use, by which the Bulgarians suffocated many. Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/waikato-times/1916/03/22/5>

The Waikato Times, March 22, 1916, page 5

THE AUCKLAND STAR. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1916.

**AUSTRIAN MASSACRES IN SERBIA.**

**THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION MURDERED.**

**THOUSANDS HERDED INTO CHURCHES AND SUFFOCATED.**

(Received 11.10 a.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent states that the Allies are shortly publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch, Premier of Serbia, communicated to Italy and to the Pope, testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims, whole districts being thus depopulated.

The Austrians took prisoner the women, children and old men. They herded them into the churches and then stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many, while the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/auckland-star/1916/03/22/5>  
The Auckland Star (New Zealand), March 22, 1916, page 5

**THE BALKANS.**

**AUSTRO-BULGAR BRUTALITY.**

**MASSACRES IN SERBIA.**

(Received March 22, 9.40 a.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence from documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia.

M. Pasitch, Premier of Serbia, has sent communications to Italy and the Pope, in which testimony is given showing that there were 700,000 victims, whole districts being thus depopulated. The Austrians imprisoned women, children, and old men in churches and stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines producing gas. During the giving of instructions in their use, some Bulgarians were suffocated. Many Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/ashburton-guardian/1916/03/22/5>  
The Ashburton Guardian (New Zealand),  
March 22, 1916, page 5

THE DOMINION.  
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1916.

**A NEW FIELD OF  
HORROR**

**DREADFUL STORY FROM  
SERBIA**

By Telegraph—Press Association—Copyright  
London, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" correspondent at Rome states that the Allies are shortly to publish evidence and documents proving Austria and Bulgaria guilty of massacres in Serbia, exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia.

M. Pasitch (Premier of Serbia) has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men in the churches. They stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them by asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/dominion/1916/03/22/5>

The Dominion (New Zealand),  
March 23, 1916, page 5



# MASSACRE OF SERBIANS.

## TURKISH ATROCITIES EXCEEDED.

(Received Wednesday, at 9.55 a.m.)

LONDON, Tuesday.  
The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence contained in documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia.

M. Pasitch (Premier of Serbia) has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that 700,000 people were massacred, whole districts being thus depopulated.

The Austrians took prisoners of women, children and old men in churches, and stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report having seen Germans and Austrians distribute among Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in the use of these. In the course of these lessons many were suffocated. Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Wairarapa Daily Times (New Zealand), Volume LXX, Issue 14523, 22 March 1916, p. 5*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WOT19160322.2.32.12>

## THE STRICKEN SERBIANS

### AWFUL ATROCITIES BY THE ENEMY.

#### WHOLESALE MASSACRE OF WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND OLD MEN.

(Received March 22, 9.50 a.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent says that the Allies will shortly publish evidence contained in documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia, exceeding those of Turkey in Armenia.

M. Pasitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, in communications to Italy and the Pope, gives testimony showing that the victims numbered 700,000, and that whole districts were thus depopulated.

The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men in the churches, and stabbed them with their bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report seeing the Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many.

The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Sun (New Zealand), Volume III, Issue 660, 22 March 1916, p. 7*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/SUNCH19160322.2.43>

## AUSTRIAN MASSACRES IN SERBIA.

### THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION MURDERED.

#### THOUSANDS HERDED INTO CHURCHES AND SUFFOCATED.

(Received 11.10 a.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent states that the Allies are shortly publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch, Premier of Serbia, communicated to Italy and to the Pope, testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims, whole districts being thus depopulated.

The Austrians took prisoner the women, children and old men. They herded them into the churches and then stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many, while the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Auckland Star (New Zealand), Volume XLVII, Issue 70, 22 March 1916, p. 5*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19160322.2.26.6>

## TERRIBLE INDICTMENT OF AUSTRIA AND BULGARIA.

### GUILTY OF MASSACRES AND ATROCITIES IN SERBIA.

#### DEPOPULATION OF WHOLE DISTRICTS ALLEGED.

#### VICTIMS STABBED OR SUFFOCATED IN CHURCHES.

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent states that the allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding in atrocity those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch, Premier of Serbia, communicated to Italy and to the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims, whole districts being thus depopulated.

The Austrians took prisoner the women, children, and old men. They herded them into the churches and then stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many, while the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*New Zealand Herald, Volume LIII, Issue 16185, 23 March 1916, p. 7*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19160323.2.58.12>

#### APPALLING STORY OF AUSTRIAN FRIGHTFULNESS.

#### TURKISH MASSACRES IN ARMENIA OUTDONE.

#### DOCUMENTARY PROOF SHORTLY TO BE PUBLISHED.

#### WOMEN AND CHILDREN SUFFOCATED IN CHURCHES.

#### SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND COLD-BLOODEDLY BUTCHERED.

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent says the Allies are shortly publishing documentary evidence, proving that Austria and Bulgaria are guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing the massacre of seven hundred thousand victims; one whole district was thus depopulated. The Austrians imprisoned women and children and old men in the churches and stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church. Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians subsequently suffocated many Serbians. Austrians were employed in similar means in Montenegro.

*Taihape Daily Times (New Zealand), Volume 8, Issue 70, 22 March 1916, p. 5*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/TAID19160322.2.23>

# MASSACRED.

## FEARFUL INDICTMENT.

### SERBIA'S AWFUL PLIGHT.

## WHOLE DISTRICTS DEPOPULATED

By Telegraph—Press Association—Copyright.

(Received March 22, 11 a.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent says that the Allies will shortly be publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding Turkey's atrocities in Armenia.

M. Pasitch in communications to Italy and the Pope gives testimony showing 700,000 victims. Whole districts have thus been depopulated, the

Austrians taking prisoner women, children and old men. These were placed in churches and the Austrians stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report seeing the Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many, and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Star (New Zealand), Issue 11654, 22 March 1916, p. 1*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/TS19160322.2.8>

## THE BALKANS

### AUSTRO-BULGAR BRUTALITY.

#### MASSACRES IN SERBIA.

(Received March 22, 9.40 a.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence from documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia.

M. Pasitch, Premier of Serbia, has sent communications to Italy and the Pope, in which testimony is given showing that there were 700,000 victims, whole districts being thus depopulated. The Austrians imprisoned women, children, and old men in churches and stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines producing gas. During the giving of instructions in their use, some Bulgarians were suffocated. Many Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Ashburton Guardian (New Zealand), Volume XXXVI, Issue 8405, 22 March 1916, p. 5*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AG19160322.2.54.4>

# THE BALKANS

London March 22.

The Daily Telegraph correspondent at Rome says that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated.

The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men in the churches and stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many people, and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Opunake Times (New Zealand), Volume LII, Issue 2252, 24 March 1916, p. 2*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/OPUNT19160324.2.15.2>

## MASSACRE IN SERBIA.

### A TERRIBLE RECORD.

#### BULGARIANS, AUSTRIANS AND GERMANS GUILTY

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent says that the Allies will shortly be publishing evidence from documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria are guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia.

M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and to the Pope testimony showing that there are 700,000 victims, and that whole districts have thus been depopulated. The Austrians imprisoned women, children, and old men in the churches, and stabbed them with bayonets, or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church alone.

Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many, and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Wanganui Chronicle (New Zealand), Volume LXI, Issue 16579, 23 March 1916, p. 5*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WC19160323.2.28.3>

## ATROCITIES IN SERBIA

### SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND VICTIMS.

#### CRIMES OF AUSTRIANS AND BULGARS.

(Received March 22, 9.55 a.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent says the Allies will shortly be publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia.

M. Pasitch communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were seven hundred thousand victims. Whole districts had thus been depopulated.

The Austrians, imprisoning women, children and old men in churches, stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use.

The Bulgarians suffocated many people. Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Poverty Bay Herald (New Zealand), Volume XLIII, Issue 13948, 22 March 1916, p. 3*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/PBH19160322.2.11.15>

# SERVIAN HORRORS.

## WHOLESALE BRUTAL MASSACRES

### SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND SLAIN.

(Press Assn.—Recd. 9.55 p.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent says the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding in brutality those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch, the Servian Premier, has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of the women, children and old men in the church and stabbed them with their bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. It is said 3000 were suffocated in one church. Servian refugees report seeing the Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in the use. The Bulgarians suffocated many. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Northern Advocate (New Zealand), 22 March 1916, p. 3*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NA19160322.2.19.1>

## MASSACRES IN SERBIA

### DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

#### AUSTRO-BULGARIAN EXCUSES.

#### WHOLE DISTRICTS DEPOPULATED

Received March 22, 9.55 a.m.

LONDON, March 21

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent in Rome states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence by documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia.

M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims, whole districts thus being depopulated. The Austrians imprisoned women, children and old men in the churches and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas, 3000 being suffocated in one church. Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them in its use, by which the Bulgarians suffocated many. Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Waikato Times (New Zealand), Volume 86, Issue 13138, 22 March 1916, p. 5*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WT19160322.2.34.14>

## MORE ENEMY ATROCITIES.

### FRIGHTFUL MASSACRES OF SERBIANS.

#### WOMEN AND CHILDREN STABBED AND POISONED.

#### WHOLE DISTRICTS DEPOPULATED.

London, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly be publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there have been seven hundred thousand victims, whole districts having thus been depopulated.

The Austrians shut up women, children and old men in churches and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas.

Three thousand were suffocated in one church. Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them how to use them. The Bulgarians suffocated many and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Rangitikei Advocate and Manawatu Argus (New Zealand), Volume XLI, Issue 11531, 22 March 1916, p. 5*  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/RA19160322.2.2>



# TERRIBLE MASSACRES IN SERVIA.

## BY BULGARIANS, AUSTRIANS AND GERMANS.

700,000 VICTIMS.

Press Association—Telegraph—Copyright.  
Received March 22, 9.55 a.m.

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly be publishing evidence from documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria are guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia.

M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and to the Pope testimony showing that there are 700,000 victims, and that whole districts have thus been depopulated. The Austrians imprisoned women, children, and old men in the churches, and stabbed them with bayonets, or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church alone.

Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many, and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Wanganui Herald* (New Zealand), Volume L, Issue 14870, 22 March 1916, p. 5

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WH19160322.2.31>

## BALKANS

### ATROCITIES IN SERBIA.

#### AUSTRIAN-BULGAR MURDERERS.

London, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph correspondent at Rome says that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated.

The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men in the churches and stabbed them with bayonets, or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many people, and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Taranaki Daily News* (New Zealand), 23 March 1916, p. 5

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/TDN19160323.2.22.7>

## THE BALKANS.

### TERRIBLE ATROCITIES

#### BY AUSTRIANS AND BULGARIANS.

#### SERBIANS MURDERED WHOLESALE.

(Received March 22, 9.55 a.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph correspondent at Rome says that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men in the churches and stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among Bulgarians machines producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many people, and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Taranaki Herald* (New Zealand), Volume LXIV, Issue 144944, 22 March 1916, p. 3

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/TH19160322.2.12.5>

*Southern Cross* (New Zealand), Volume 23, Issue 50, 25 March 1916, p. 9

## WHOLESALE MASSACRES

### SERBIA'S TALE OF HORROR

London, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly be publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding Turkey's in Armenia.

M. Pasitch communicated to Italy and the Pope his testimony showing that there were seven hundred thousand victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians took women, children, and old men and imprisoned them in churches, where they stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

*Pelorus Guardian and Miners' Advocate* (New Zealand), Volume 28, Issue 23, 24 March 1916, p. 5

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/PGAMA19160324.2.26>

#### AUSTRIA AND BULGARIA.

#### ALLEGED MASSACRES.

#### SERBIA PREPARING EVIDENCE.

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of Turkey in Armenia.

M. Pasitch (Serbian Premier) has sent communications to Italy and the Pope, the testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated.

The Austrians took prisoner women, children, and old men in the churches, and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church alone. Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use, after which the Bulgarians suffocated many. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Otago Daily Times* (New Zealand), Issue 16650, 23 March 1916, p. 5

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/ODT19160323.2.33>

#### ATROCITIES IN SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.

#### EXCEED THOSE IN ARMENIA.

#### THOUSANDS OF INNOCENTS SUFFOCATED.

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent states that the Allies are shortly publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria are guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch, the Serbian Premier, in communications to Italy and the Pope, gives testimony showing that there have been 700,000 victims. Whole districts have been thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men, placing them in churches, where they stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church. Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. Bulgarians suffocated many. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Western Star* (New Zealand), 24 March 1916, p. 3

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WSTAR19160324.2.13>

## THE WAR

It is asserted that Austrians and Bulgarians have been guilty of terrible deeds in Serbia, about 700,000 persons having been massacred. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men, placing them in churches, where they stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church. Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas, and instructing them in their use.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/SOCR19160325.2.22>

## ATROCITIES IN SERBIA.

### AMAZING REVELATIONS.

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Rome says that the Allies will shortly be publishing evidence and documents proving that the Austrians and Bulgarians were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of Turkey in Armenia. Testimony shows that there have been 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men in the churches and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Some 3000 were suffocated in one church. Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines producing gas for the use of Bulgarians. Many Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Greymouth Evening Star* (New Zealand), 22 March 1916, p. 5

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/GEST19160322.2.32>

## GENERAL WAR NEWS European Theatre

#### MASSACRES IN SERBIA.

#### EXCEED ARMENIAN ATROCITIES.

700,000 VICTIMS.

(By Telegraph—Press Assn.—Copyright)

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent states that the Allies are shortly publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria are guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch, the Serbian Premier, in communications to Italy and the Pope, gives testimony showing that there have been 700,000 victims. Whole districts have been thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men, placing them in churches, where they stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church. Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. Bulgarians suffocated many. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Southland Times* (New Zealand), Issue 17689, 23 March 1916, p. 2

## STRICKEN SERBIA.

### WHOLESALE MASSACRES.

#### AUSTRIAN AND BULGARIAN ATROCITIES.

(By Cable.—Press Association.—Copyright.)

LONDON, March 21.

The Rome correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" says the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding Turkey's atrocities in Armenia.

M. Pasitch, Prime Minister of Serbia, in a communication to the Pope, forwards testimony showing that altogether 700,000 people were victims. Whole districts were depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men in churches, and then stabbed them to death with bayonets, or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas.

Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute gas-producing machines among the Bulgarians, and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many people, and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Press* (New Zealand), Volume LII, Issue 15546, 23 March 1916, p. 7

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/CHP19160323.2.60>

## ALLEGED MASSACRES.

### SERBIA PREPARING EVIDENCE.

LONDON, March 21.

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The Austrians took prisoner women, children, and old men in the churches, and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church alone. Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use, after which the Bulgarians suffocated many. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Otago Witness* (New Zealand), Issue 3237, 29 March 1916, p. 23

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/OW19160329.2.66.1>

## 700,000 SERBS MASSACRED.

### COLOSSAL AUSTRO-BULGAR CRIME.

#### EXCEEDS TURKISH ATROCITIES IN ARMENIA.

#### 3000 SUFFOCATED IN ONE CHURCH.

Received March 22, 9.50 a.m.

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent says the Allies will shortly be publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding the Turkish atrocities in Armenia.

M. Pasitch, Serbian Premier, has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that 700,000 victims were slaughtered. Whole districts were thus depopulated.

The Austrians prisoner women, children, and old men in churches, and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Servian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many. The Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Manawatu Standard* (New Zealand), Volume XLI, Issue 10326, 22 March 1916, p. 5

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/MS19160322.2.22.13>

#### FLIGHT OF THE SERBIANS.

#### AUSTRIAN AND BULGARIAN MASSACRES.

#### DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

(Received 9.55 a.m.)

London, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent states that the Allies will shortly publish the evidence of documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. General Pasitch communicated to Italy and the Pope certain testimony, showing that there were seven hundred thousand victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated, the Austrians making prisoners of women, children, and old men in the churches, and stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church. The Serbian refugees report having seen the Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in the use thereof. The Bulgarians suffocated many, and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

*Stratford Evening Post* (New Zealand), Volume XXIV, Issue 90, 22 March 1916, p. 8

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/STP19160322.2.30>



**700,000 Serbs Massacred By Austro-Bulgars**

ARMENIAN ATROCITIES OUTDONE BY APOSTLES OF  
"KULTUR."

**700,000 SERBS MASS-  
ACRED.**

**COLOSSAL AUSTRO-BULGAR  
CRIME.**

**EXCEEDS TURKISH ATROCITIES  
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<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/manawatu-standard/1916/03/22/5>  
*The Manawatu Standard (New Zealand),*  
March 22, 1916, page 5

TARANAKI HERALD,  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1916.

**TERRIBLE ATROCITIES.**

**BY AUSTRIANS AND  
BULGARIANS.**

**SERBIANS MURDERED  
WHOLESALE.**

(Received March 22, 9.55 a.m.)

LONDON, March 21.

The Daily Telegraph correspondent at Rome says that the Allies will shortly publish evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria were guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding those of the Turks in Armenia. M. Pasitch has communicated to Italy and the Pope testimony showing that there were 700,000 victims. Whole districts were thus depopulated. The Austrians made prisoners of women, children, and old men in the churches and stabbed them with bayonets or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Serbian refugees report seeing Germans and Austrians distribute among Bulgarians machines producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many people, and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/taranaki-herald/1916/03/22/3>  
*The Taranaki Herald (New Zealand),*  
March 22, 1916, page 3

**ATROCITIES IN SERBIA.**

**ARMENIAN MURDERS EXCEEDED  
WHOLE DISTRICTS DEPOPULATED.**

LONDON, March 21.

The "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent says that the Allies will shortly be publishing evidence and documents proving that Austria and Bulgaria have been guilty of massacres in Serbia exceeding Turkey's atrocities in Armenia.

M. Pasitch in communications to Italy and the Pope gives testimony showing 700,000 victims. Whole districts have thus been depopulated, the Austrians taking prisoner women, children and old men. These were placed in churches and the Austrians stabbed them with the bayonet or suffocated them with asphyxiating gas. Three thousand were suffocated in one church.

Serbian refugees report seeing the Germans and Austrians distribute among the Bulgarians machines for producing gas and instructing them in their use. The Bulgarians suffocated many, and the Austrians employed similar means in Montenegro.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/lyttelton-times/1916/03/23/7>

*The Lyttelton Times (New Zealand),* March 23, 1916, page 7

THE CLUTHA LEADER, FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1916.

**OCCUPATION OF SERBIA.**

**700,000 PEOPLE MASSACRED.**

**BY AUSTRIANS AND BULGARS.**

**WOMEN, CHILDREN AND AGED.**

**SUFFOCATED BY GAS.**

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<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/clutha-leader/1916/03/24/6>  
*The Clutha Leader (New Zealand),*  
March 24, 1916, page 6

**FLIGHT OF THE SERBIANS.**

**AUSTRIAN AND BULGARIAN  
MASSACRES.**

**DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.**

(Received 9.55 a.m.)

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<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/stratford-evening-post/1916/03/22/8>  
*The Stratford Evening Post (New Zealand),*  
March 22, 1916, page 8

THE PRESS,  
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1916.

**STRICKEN SERBIA.**

**WHOLESALE MASSACRES.**

**AUSTRIAN AND BULGARIAN  
ATROCITIES.**

(By Cable.—Press Association.—Copyright.)  
LONDON, March 21.

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<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/press/1916/03/23/7>  
*The Press (New Zealand),*  
March 23, 1916, page 7





FIG. 2. TYPHUS VICTIMS AWAITING BURIAL

# TYPHUS FEVER WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE SERBIAN EPIDEMIC

BY

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1920





**Bodies of typhus victims, Corfu, Greece, circa 1915.**



# TYPHUS IN SERBIA KILLS 100 DOCTORS

Henry James of the Rockefeller  
Foundation Reports the Hor-  
rors of the Epidemic.

## CHOLERA OUTBREAK FEARED

American Red Cross Unit Is Making  
a Brave Fight Against Odds  
That Are Overwhelming.

Serbia is in the grip of an epidemic of typhus more virulent and attended by greater fatality than the world in modern times has ever been called upon to combat, according to Henry James, Jr., of the War Relief Commission of the Rockefeller Foundation, who arrived here tonight on the steamer Lusitania from Liverpool.

Mr. James and Ernest P. Bicknell, National Director of the American Red Cross, also a member of the commission, were in Serbia from Feb. 19 to Feb. 26. They made a careful investigation, and Mr. James intimated that he would in his report make the strongest recommendations for every possible measure for the relief of the stricken country.

"The epidemic of typhus," said Mr. James, "was brought into Serbia presumably with the first great consignment of Austrian prisoners, said to number about 60,000. Serbia, being a small country, was not prepared adequately to handle such an immense body of men. As a result they were distributed among the population wherever they could be taken care of. This caused overcrowding and unsanitary conditions, which are highly conducive to the spread of typhus."

"Mr. Bicknell and I visited Nish, Belgrade, and other large centres of population. The epidemic was well under way in all these centres when we arrived, and it is probably prevalent throughout the country now."

"Indicative of the seriousness of the epidemic, Serbia lost 100 out of 350 of the physicians working among the victims of typhus during January and February. While these figures do not indicate the average mortality of the country from typhus, they do indicate that the doctors cannot control it under the present conditions. They are hampered by lack of facilities, conditions of barracks, improper and inadequate sanitary equipment, and other drawbacks."

"Typhoid is also prevalent in Serbia now, as are other infections less severe than typhus. Cholera is expected to become prevalent this month. The Balkan States had had sufficient experience in recent wars to enable them to combat in a measure the latter infections, and they took precautions. Typhus, however, was unexpected, and Serbia was and is not yet equipped to meet it."

"The country is exhausted economically by the recent wars, and it now has to import almost everything, including tents, bedding, hospital equipment, and sanitary supplies. Lack of transportation facilities to Serbia seriously operates against rapid organization of hospitals."

"I believe that France and England are sending strong sanitary commissions to Serbia, and that the American unit sent by the Red Cross Society will be able to co-operate and that all three will be amply supported. Unless, however, they are supported, they will not only not be able to accomplish much, but will be in danger of losing many of their personnel."

"A large percentage of the people of Serbia are sleeping on straw. Overcrowding prevails to an alarming degree. It is filth and lack of sanitation that is fostering typhus, which in itself is a filthy and loathsome disease. It is mainly communicated through vermin. The members of the American Red Cross unit are doing all that can be expected of them."

Mr. James spoke of the work that Lady Paget did in Serbia. He said she took upon herself the hardest of tasks for the relief of the stricken people and resigned herself to becoming a possible victim herself.

50,000 DIE OF TYPHUS.  
Serbian Epidemic Rouses Fear of  
a Great Plague in Europe.  
Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Under the title, "The Scourge of War and Some American Heroism," the leading article in the April number of The American Red Cross Magazine deals with what is claimed to be the most serious situation developed since the European war began, the danger of a widespread plague of typhus and cholera, and particularly with the conditions in Serbia.

At the time this article was written, early in March, one American surgeon, Dr. James F. Donnelly of Brooklyn, had died as the result of typhus. Cabled reports said that nine of the twelve American Red Cross trained nurses and three of the remaining five surgeons sent to Gjevella last November were down with this malady. The article continues:

"The development of an epidemic of deadly typhus in Serbia has deeply aroused the humanitarian forces of the United States. One official communication received by the Government is to the effect that 50,000 souls have passed away already as a result of this fearful disease."

"Authentic cabled dispatches announce that some sixty physicians, including Americans and several other foreigners, have died of typhus in the last two months."

"Not only typhus, but typhoid, is spreading rapidly."

"The dread word is—cholera!"

"With much of Continental Europe in a highly unsettled state; with fields and trenches drenched with blood; with shallow graves of thousands of dead scattered throughout the war area; with vermin and filth on every hand; with hundreds of thousands of wounded men being cared for in a pitifully inadequate way, a vast number of them having infected wounds, and with the approach of warm weather and the attending flies and mosquitoes, Europe may well be gravely apprehensive—fearful that an unprecedented plague will sweep the Old World."

The South Serbian American Red Cross work is under the direction of Drs. Ethan Flagg Butler and Ernest P. Magruder of Washington.

The New York Times

Published: March 26, 1915

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## WHAT LIPTON SAW IN STRICKEN SERBIA

Hardly Enough People Un-  
spared by Typhus to Bury the  
Dead, Says Sir Thomas.

## VICTIMS LIE IN THE ROADS

Hospital Conditions Appalling—  
Vermin Everywhere—Fire  
Alarm Will Stop Epidemic.

LONDON, March 22.—"Just as it took fire to stop the great plague in London, so fires are needed to clear Serbia of typhus. Infected houses and the clothing of the people must be burned, as the disease is carried by vermin which are omnipresent," said Sir Thomas Lipton tonight in a statement in which he recounted the appalling conditions in Serbia, where he spent a considerable time in personal investigations.

"I met on the country roads," he said, "many victims too weak to crawl to a hospital. Bullock carts were gathering them up. Often a woman and her children were leading the bullocks, while in the car the husband and father was raving with fever. Scarcely enough people remain unstricken to dig graves for the dead, whose bodies lie exposed in the cemeteries."

"The situation is entirely beyond the control of the present force, which im-

peratively needs all the help it can get—tents, hospitals, doctors, nurses, modern appliances, and clothing to replace the garments full of typhus-bearing vermin."

Describing the hospital at Ghevgheli, where occurred the death of Dr. James F. Donnelly of the American Red Cross, whom Sir Thomas calls one of the greatest heroes of the war, he said:

"The place is a village in a barren, uncultivated country, the hospital an old tobacco factory, formerly belonging to Abdul Hamid. In it were crowded 1,400 persons, without blankets or mattresses, or even straw—men lying in the clothes in which they had lived in the trenches for months, clothes swarming with vermin, victims of different diseases—typhus, typhoid, dysentery, and smallpox—were herded together. In such a state Dr. Donnelly found the hospital, where he had a force of six American doctors, twelve American nurses, and three Serbian doctors. When I visited the hospital three of the American doctors, the three Serbian doctors, and nine of the nurses were themselves ill."

"The patients were waited on by Austrian prisoners. The fumes of illness were unbearable. The patients objected to the windows being opened, and Dr. Donnelly was forced to break the panes."

"The first thing Dr. Donnelly did on his arrival was to test the water, which he found infected. He then improvised boilers of oil drums, in which to boil water for use. The boilers saved 500 lives, said Dr. Donnelly. He also built ovens in which to bake the clothes of the patients, but he was not provided with proper sterilizing apparatus."

"No braver people exist than the Serbians. They have never a word of complaint. In one ward I saw a fever patient, his magnificent voice booming songs to cheer his comrades. Some were in a delirium, calling for 'mother.'"

"One source of infection is the army black bread, which is the only ration of the troops. The patients in the hospital receive only a loaf each, which they put in their bed or under their pillow. Later the unused loaves are bought by peddlers and are resold, spreading disease among the people, who are mediæval in so far as sanitation is concerned. A Serbian soldier receives a rifle, some hand grenades, and perhaps part of a uniform, but otherwise looks after himself. His rations are coarse bread."

"The street cleaning and hospital waiting are done by Austrians, who are rapidly thinning from typhus and other diseases."

"The best hospital in the Balkans is at Belgrade, under Dr. Edward W. Ryan of the American contingent, where there are 2,900 patients. Dr. Ryan kept the hospital neutral during the Austrian occupation, and accomplished wonders diplomatically at that time. He is worshipped by the people."

"Dr. Ryan says that the greatest task is to keep the hospital free from vermin. The typhus affects men the most severely. Women come next, and children for the most part recover. The symptoms in the present epidemic begin like those of grip. The disease lasts fifteen days, with fever and delirium."

The New York Times

Published: March 23, 1915

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## DISEASE SPREADING ALL OVER SERBIA

25,000 to 30,000 Cases of  
Typhus, Rockefeller War Re-  
lief Commission Reports.

## OTHER FEVERS EPIDEMIC

Cholera Expected with the Warmer  
Spring Weather—The Nation  
Unable to Aid Itself.

The Rockefeller Foundation made public last night the first installment of the report of the Rockefeller Foundation War Relief Commission concerning conditions in Serbia. The head of the commission is Dr. Wickliffe Rose. In part the installment reads:

"At the present time typhus, typhoid,

and recurrent fever are epidemic in Serbia. Smallpox and scarlet fever are also present in some communities. Cholera is expected with the warmer weather of Spring."

"Serbia knows from experience the terror of these diseases; but with all her energies concentrated on a war for her existence, with her physicians and her men of strength and prominence in the army, with her resources exhausted and lacking adequate leadership for the sanitary emergency, she can do little to save herself."

"It is safe to say that the three epidemic diseases are distributed throughout the country. We found all three of these diseases in the communities we visited and in all the larger hospitals. In Nish an English physician stated that it was his belief that a hundred patients were dying of typhus daily. One day during the visit of this commission it was reported that the cemetery at Nish contained 250 unburied bodies of typhus victims, the force of grave diggers being unable to keep up with the work."

"In Belgrade in one hospital were 165 cases of typhus, with a larger aggregate number in several other hospitals."

"In Skopje Dr. Barrie, an English physician who has been in Skopje several months at the head of a medical mission of the British Red Cross, estimated the number of typhus cases on Feb. 24 at 2,000."

"Valjevo, a town in that part of Serbia which was for a time held by the Austrian Army, is reported to be the most serious centre of the epidemic of typhus. The people who fled from the invading armies are said to have found their homes generally infected on their return. Substantially the entire civilian population there are involved in the disease."

"Without medical care, with no direction or resources for setting on foot sanitary measures, remote and helpless, the population is being decimated, while the epidemic spreads in rapidly widening circles. Every community on main lines of travel is in the clutches of typhus."

"Into the mountain places and the villages distant from the railroads the disease is being carried by the moving troops and bullock drivers and by the straw-lined carts in which the sick and well are transported, and it is said to be prevalent in most of them already."

"The Serbian Government is absorbed in the conduct of the war; its usual staff of civil employees is too much depleted by the demands of the military service for it to turn attention to the gathering of statistics, but estimates based on inadequate information place the total number of typhus cases in Serbia at 25,000 to 30,000. While these figures must not be regarded as other than largely conjectural, we heard no one express an opinion that they are seriously in excess of the truth."

The New York Times

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TYPHUS EPIDEMIC GROWING.  
Percentage of Deaths in Serbia  
Frightful, Red Cross Man Reports.

LONDON, Saturday, April 10.—The Athens correspondent of The Daily Chronicle sends a statement by Captain E. N. Bennett of the British Red Cross Commission to Serbia, who declares that conditions in Serbia are growing worse and that the percentage of deaths from typhus is frightful.

At Monastir, for example, the Captain found 3,000 typhus patients, with only ten doctors to attend them. He said the death rate there was between 80 and 90 per cent.

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The New York Times

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# PLAGUE OF DISEASES PROSTRATES SERBIA

Hundreds of Sufferers in Prisoners' Camps Have Only Muddy Ground to Lie On.

BEG FOR FOOD AND WATER

Women and Children Dying Off More Rapidly Than the Soldiers Are, Says Mme. Grouitch.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON, March 18.—Capt. E. N. Bennett, Commissioner in Serbia for the British Red Cross Society, sends to The Daily Mail an appalling account of the conditions prevailing in Serbian hospitals and prisoners' camps. Describing one prisoners' camp he writes:

"It is not a hospital, remember, but simply an area where 750 Austrians have been collected; nevertheless the disease has fallen like a blight upon the camp. At an earlier date one doctor was in charge of this camp, but he is now stricken down by typhus, and various forms of infection of the malady are raging unchecked. Typhus, dysentery, smallpox, and diphtheria have swept over the place with devastating effects.

"Last week only twenty men out of 750 could stand on their feet. There they lie in utter wretchedness. Here and there one finds a mattress and here and there a little straw, but the bulk of the sick men are stretched out on the muddy ground. Their clothes are foul and alive with vermin which spread the deadly typhus. The silence of the camp is broken only by sighs and groans, but when a stranger comes in sight the sick raise themselves on their elbows if they can and cry pitifully, 'For the love of God, lady, give us water! For God's sake, sir, give us bread!'

"A recent visitor noticed a number of recumbent forms covered with great coats and found on removing these that five out of the number had already been dead several days. There was nobody to remove the corpses. Here and there some poor wretch crawled about on his hands and knees to fetch a cup of water for his prostrate comrade. This was all the attendance which was visible, and the shocking condition of the men and of the ground on which they lie can be imagined. Can any one be surprised to learn that some sixty men die in this camp every day? Every man in this hideous environment and all his comrades who will enter it subsequently are practically appointed to die, unless help comes speedily.

"Uskub is a veritable valley of the shadow of death. If the tired nurses leave the crowded hospitals for a little exercise and fresh air they are met by a long procession of bullock wagons carrying rude coffins to the cemetery. Sometimes three coffins with unfastened lids rest on the same cart and the bodies of the dead are exposed as the wheels jolt over the rough pavements."

In another passage he tells of the difficulties under which the Serbian doctors are laboring:

"Take a large Serbian Hospital which I know; it is practically impossible to go near it. So overpowering is the stench in the street outside that nobody who is not compelled to approach the building can bear to be in its vicinity. Details of the interior cannot well be printed, but may be conjectured when one mentions that foul rags and dressings, and even portions of amputated limbs are thrown over a wall and left to the attention of crows and magpies and pariah dogs. Similar refuse has been thrown into the river."

Sixty-three Serbian doctors have died in course of their unequal struggle with disease, says Capt. Bennett, who urgently appeals for help.

"In heaven's name," he concludes, "let something be done soon, for if the almost inevitable cholera of the warmer months falls upon us under existing conditions the prospect will be indeed frightful."

The New York Times

Published: March 20, 1915

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## Terrible Conditions in Serbia.

LONDON, March 18.—An appalling story of conditions in Serbia was related today by Ernest Bicknell and Henry James, Jr., of the War Relief Committee of the Rockefeller Foundation, on their return to London after a tour of inspection through that country. They said that several diseases were epidemic in Serbia.

Typhus, the most deadly of these, already has caused the death of sixty out of 400 native doctors of the country. The foreign Red Cross units have suffered great losses. Two American and one British units have been compelled to suspend their regular work because of typhus. Nine American nurses and two physicians have contracted the disease.

The Commissioners went first to Nish, then proceeded to Belgrade and left the country by way of Uskub, thus visiting the three most populous towns. During their tour they learned that typhus, typhoid fever, cholera, smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever and recurrent fever are all existing in more or less epidemic form. The largest number of cases is of recurrent fever, but this disease is seldom fatal. Typhus is particularly deadly. Small pox and diphtheria are diminishing.

The Serbians assert that typhus was introduced by Austrian prisoners of war, who were permitted to wander over the country and infected the population by spreading vermin which conveys the germ of the disease.

Mr. James said the situation could be dealt with effectively only by a joint organization of medical units operating under a system whereby strict sanitary control could be enforced. Some plan must also be devised for placing Austrian prisoners in camps. The Serbian Government has been unable thus far to provide guards for concentration camps, and prisoners at present are permitted to wander freely about the country.

Mr. James sails for New York on Saturday to make a report to the Rockefeller Foundation. Mr. Bicknell will remain to make further investigations.

The New York Times

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# TYPHUS THREATENS SERBIA, SAYS LIPTON

American Doctors and Nurses Battling with Disease—Many of Them Attacked.

ONE DOCTOR A SUICIDE?

Report from Athens Says Epidemic Is Diminishing and Americans Are Recovering.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON, Monday, March 15. — The Chronicle publishes a letter from Sir Thomas Lipton to Sir Robert Hudson of the British Red Cross Society about the conditions in Serbia. Sir Thomas says:

"Hospitals are full everywhere with typhus, not typhoid. Dr. Ryan, who is in charge of the American units, has some 2,900 patients in his care. He says that unless something is done at once to prevent the spread of typhus the country will lose more than half its population.

"The first hospital I visited on my way to Nish was at Ghevgheli. It was an American hospital and I was taken through every ward by Dr. Donnelly. There were some 1,400 patients, principally typhus. Many patients were lying without blankets or mattresses, just in their ordinary clothes. The condition of those patients was something terrible.

"I also saw some of the American nurses, out of twelve, seven of them lying sick of typhus and three of their doctors out of six down with the same thing.

"Dr. Donnelly came to the station to see me off, as fine a type of healthy man as you could see and of a happy, cheerful disposition. On my way back, when I got to the station at Ghovgheli, I looked for Donnelly, but to my great regret I found that Donnelly had died the day before.

"When I arrived at Nish I found this city very bad indeed—disease everywhere, mainly typhus, and hospitals full to overflowing. From Nish I went to Belgrade. Typhus here was pretty bad but not nearly so bad as at Nish.

"On my return from Belgrade I called at the Serbian Army's headquarters at Kragouevatz. The typhus here is very bad.

"Mrs. Hardy, who is in charge of the hospital at Gendarmeriska Kassarna, told me she had over 600 patients, principally typhus, and not one doctor or nurse to help her. Her sole assistants in the hospital were Austrian prisoners who acted as hospital orderlies.

"They are short of everything in the way of medicines and drugs, blankets, sheets—in fact, everything necessary in connection with hospital work. This one case, I should say, illustrates numerous similar cases all through the country."

The Times this morning announces that Sir Ralph Paget will leave for Serbia because of the illness of Lady Paget, who is in charge of one of the Red Cross hospitals there.

The New York Times

Published: March 15, 1915

SERBIA'S PLAGUE OF TYPHUS.

While France, England, and the United States are sending governmental and private sanitary commissions to Serbia, it may be well to point out that a scheme of sanitation against typhus was worked out last Winter and Spring in Health Officer O'CONNELL's department at Rosebank that effectually prevented the invasion of New York by the epidemic which originated in Serbia's quarter of the world. Not a physician, nurse, or other attendant contracted typhus, not a secondary case occurred among the 2,633 "contacts" whom the Health Officer's force removed from the thirteen typhus ships that entered this port from January to May.

The protective measures consisted of an anti-parasitic bath for patients and contacts, the cutting of the hair of patients, sterilization of clothing and personal baggage, and the introduction of the cleansed patients to cleansed quarters, a "follow-up" squad, armed with buckets of carbolic acid in solution, mops, and sprayers, purifying the quarters through which they had passed.

Serbia's plague, in Dr. O'CONNELL's opinion, can be checked only by an extension of this system. The method is that of fighting a prairie fire. A hospital free of vermin must first be established, all entrants must be bathed, and the field work consists of a wholesale war on body parasites and a fervent preaching of the gospel of soap and water.

In Serbia this task will be one of great difficulty, first, because of the crude sanitary ideas of the people; second, because the forces that work for civilization in normal times have been demoralized. One of the Red Cross physicians on the scene expresses the fear that one-half the population that has been spared by war will die of typhus. The record of typhus is "the history of human misery." Preparation must be made anew to meet it here. The relatively harmless form of typhus or "Brill's disease" now here may give way to the malignant strain should victims of plague-stricken Europe migrate hither.

The New York Times

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## FEVER RAVAGES IN SERBIA.

### HALF THE NATION MAY BE WIPE OUT.

How pitiful is the plight of gallant little Serbia, despite, and, in some measure, because of her heroic resistance to the Austrian hordes, is described in a letter which Sir Thomas Lipton has sent home to Sir Robert Hudson, of the British Red Cross Society.

Sir Thomas, who converted his famous yacht Erin into a hospital ship, and took out to Serbia a great store of medical necessities, writes:—

"It would be impossible for me to describe in this letter the terrible position that country is in with poverty and disease; the hospitals are full everywhere with typhus (not typhoid). Dr Ryan, who is in charge of the American Units, has some 2900 patients in his care, and he says that unless something is done at once to prevent the spread of typhus the country will lose more than one-half of its population.

"The first hospital I visited on my way up to Nish was at Ghevgheli. It is an American hospital, and I was taken through every ward by Dr Donnelly. There were some 1400 patients, principally typhus. The building, I understand, had been a tobacco and silk factory. Many of the patients were lying without blankets or mattresses—just in their ordinary clothes.

"I saw one dead man lying amongst them. The condition those patients were in was something terrible.

"I also saw some of the nurses—Americans. Out of twelve, seven of them are lying sick with typhus, and three of the doctors out of six—are down with the same trouble.

"Dr Donnelly came to the station to see me off—as fine a type of a healthy man as you could see, and of a happy, cheerful disposition. His age would be about 40. Just before the train started two young nurses (Americans) came down to see me. I sent back to the hospital some little comforts I had in the train.

"On my way back, when I got to the station at Ghevgheli, I looked for Dr Donnelly and those two nurses, but to my great regret I found Dr Donnelly had died the day before, and the two nurses were lying seriously unwell with typhus.

"When I arrived at Nish I am sorry to say that I found this city very bad indeed; disease everywhere, mainly typhus. Hospitals full to overflowing.

"From Nish I went to Belgrade. I was very nearly finished off in that city by an Austrian shell. Typhus here was pretty bad, but not nearly so bad as at Nish.

"On my return from Belgrade I called at the Serbian Army's Headquarters at Kragouyevatz. Typhus here is very bad. Mrs Hankin Hardy, who is in charge of the hospital at the Gendarmeriska Kassarna, told me that she had over 600 patients, principally typhus, and that she had not one doctor or nurse to help her.

"Her sole assistants in the hospital were Austrian prisoners, who acted as hospital orderlies. She was very short of everything in the way of medicines and drugs, blankets, sheets, in fact everything necessary in connection with hospital work.

"This one case, I should say, illustrates numerous similar cases all through the country, and many hospitals are even worse off than the one Mrs Hankin-Hardy takes charge of, as I believe that there are districts even more ravaged by disease than those I visited.

"There is such a shortage of hospitals throughout the country that it is impossible to isolate the typhus cases from the others.

"Something serious has got to be done at once regarding Serbia. I feel certain that there is no country in the world to-day that is in such a dangerous condition as that country, or one requiring so much immediate help and assistance in every direction.

"I can assure you that the Red Cross can find no place where its magnificent resources are more wanted than in Serbia."

The British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John have already sent three Red Cross units to Serbia, and have assisted in the equipment of a fever hospital, which has been sent out. The two societies also supplied a valuable cargo of medical stores which Sir Thomas Lipton took out in the Erin. There is also at work in Serbia another British medical expedition organised by Lady Paget.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/oamaru-mail/1915/05/04/8>



## SERBIA BETWEEN BATTLES.

## THE SAD PLIGHT OF A SMALL NATION.

## ONE SIXTH OF THE POPULATION VICTIMS OF DISEASE.

(By JOHN REED, in the "Metropolitan Magazine.")

We rubbed ourselves from head to foot with camphorated oil, put kerosene on our hair, filled our pockets with moth-balls and sprinkled naphthaline through our baggage; and boarded a train so saturated with formalin that our eyes and lungs burned as with quicklime.

These were the ordinary precautions of travellers bound for Serbia, the country of the Typhus—abdominal typhus, recurrent fever, and the mysterious and violent spotted fever, which kills fifty per cent of its victims, and whose bacillus no man has discovered. Most doctors think it is carried by clothing lice, but the British R.A.M.C. lieutenant who travelled with us was sceptical.

"I have been up there three months," he said, "and I've long ago stopped taking any precautionary measures whatever, except a daily bath. As for the lice—one gets used to spending a quiet evening picking them off one." He snorted at the naphthaline. "They're really quite fond of it, you know. The truth about the Typhus is that no one knows anything about it, whatever, except that about one-sixth of the Serbian nation is dead of it."

Already the warm weather and the cessation of the spring rains had begun to check the epidemic—and the virus was weaker. Now there were only a hundred thousand sick in all Serbia, and only a thousand deaths a day—besides cases of the dreadful post-typhus gangrene. In February it must have been ghastly—hundreds dying and delirious in the mud of the streets for want of hospitals.

The foreign medical missions had suffered heavily. Out of the four hundred odd doctors with which the Serbian army began the war, less than two hundred were left. And the typhus was not all. Small-pox, scarlet-fever, scarlatina, diphtheria, raged along the great roads and in inaccessible villages, and already there were cases of cholera, which were sure to spread with the coming of the summer in that devastated land, where battlefields, villages and roads stank with the lightly buried dead, and the streams were polluted with the bodies of men and horses.

Our lieutenant belonged to the British Army Medical Mission, sent to fight the cholera. He was dressed in full service uniform, and carried a huge sword which got between his legs and

## EMBARRASSED HIM FRIGHTFULLY.

"I don't know what to do with the bally thing," he cried, hurling it into a corner. "We don't wear swords in the army any more. But we have to out here, because the Serbians won't believe you're an officer unless you carry a sword."

As we crawled slowly up between barren hills along the yellow torrent of the Vardar, he told us how jealous the Serbians were of the foreign missions. The English had persuaded the Serbian Government to stop all train service for a month, in order to prevent the spread of disease; then they ordered sanitary improvements in the filthy towns, compelled anti-cholera vaccination, and began to disinfect whole sections of the population. The Serbians sneered—these English were evidently cowards. When Colonel Hunter, unable to secure decent quarters, threatened the authorities that if one of his men died of typhus he would abandon Serbia, a storm of irony burst. Colonel Hunter was a coward! And the Americans were cowards, too, when, with half their units infected, they abandoned Givgieli. We heard these slurs everywhere in Serbia—from doc-

tors, officers and university instructors. To the Serbians, the taking of preventive measures was a proof of timidity. They regarded the immense ravages of the epidemic with a sort of gloomy pride—as medieval Europe regarded the Plague.

A tall, bearded man, in black, introduced himself in French as a Serbian Secret Service officer whose job was to keep us under observation. Once a dapper young officer came aboard and questioned him, nodding to us. The other responded.

"Dobra! Good!" he said, clicking his heels and saluting.

"That station," remarked the Secret Service man as the train moved on again, "is the frontier. We are now in Serbia."

We caught a glimpse of several big, bearded men lounging on the platform, rifles with fixed bayonets slung at their shoulders, without any uniform except the soldier's kepi.

"What would you?" shrugged our friend, smiling. "We Serbians have no longer any uniforms. We have fought four wars in three years—the first and second Balkan wars, the Albanian revolt, and now this one. For three years our soldiers have not changed their clothes."

Now we were passing along a narrow field planted with small wooden crosses, that might have been vine-poles, spaced about three feet apart; they marched beside the train for five minutes.

"The typhus cemetery of Givgieli," he said ironically. "There must have been thousands of those little crosses, and each marked a grave."

## THE SERBIAN SOLDIER.

There came in sight a great, tramped-down space on a hillside beyond, honey-combed with burrows leading into the brown earth, and humped into round mounds of heaped-up mud. Men crawled in and out of the holes, ragged, dirty fellows in every variety of half-uniform, the rifle-belts criss-crossed over their breasts like Mexican revolutionists. Between were stacked rifles, and there were cannon with ox-yoke limbers and half a hundred springless ox-carts ranged along the side, while farther on the hobbled oxen grazed. Below the mud huts, at the bottom of the hill, men were drinking from the yellow river that poured down from scores of infected villages up the valley. Around a fire squatted twenty or more, watching the carcass of a sheep turn in the flames.

"This regiment has come to guard the frontier," explained our friend. "It was here that the Bulgarian comitadjis tried to break through and cut the railroad last week. At any moment they might come again. . . . Is the Bulgarian Government responsible, or did the Austrians pay them? One can never tell, in the Balkans."

And now, every quarter mile we passed a rude hut made of mud and twigs, before which stood a ragged, hollow-checked soldier, filthy and starved-looking, but with his rifle at present arms. All over Serbia one sees these men.

## THE LAST DESPERATE GLEANING OF THE COUNTRY'S MANHOOD.

who live in the mud, with scanty food and miserable clothing, guarding the long deserted railroad tracks.

At first there seemed no difference between this country and Greek Macedonia. The same villages, a little more unkempt—tiles gone from the roofs, white paint chipped from the wall; the same people, but fewer of them, and these mostly women, old men and children. But soon things began to strike one. The mulberry trees were neglected, the tobacco-plants were last

year's, rotting yellow; cornstalks stood spikily in weedy fields unturned for twelve months or more. In Greek Macedonia, every foot of arable land was worked; here only one field out of ten showed signs of cultivation. Occasionally we passed a field where two oxen, led by a woman in bright yellow head-dress and brilliantly coloured skirt, dragged a wooden plough carved from a twisted oak-limb, which a soldier guided, often with his rifle slung from his shoulder.

The Secret Service man pointed to them. "All the men of Serbia are in the army—or dead; and all the oxen were taken by the Government to draw the cannon and the trains. But since December, when we drove the Austrians out, there has been no fighting. So the Government sends the soldiers and the oxen all over Serbia, wherever they are wanted, to help with the ploughing."

Sometimes, in details like these, there flashed before our imaginations a picture of this country of the dead; with two bloody wars that swept away the flower of its youth, a two months' hard guerilla campaign, then this fearful struggle with the greatest military power on earth, and a devastating plague on top of that. Yet from the ruins of a whole people, imperial ambitions are already springing, which may one day threaten all Southern Europe.

Nish.—We took a tumble-down cab, whose bottom board immediately fell out, attached to two dying horses and driven by a bandit in a high fur cap, and jolted up a wide street paved with mud and wide set sharp cobbles. Round about the city the green hills rose, beautiful with new leaves and with every flowering fruit tree; and over the wide-flung Turkish roofs, and the few mean plaster buildings in the European style, loomed the bulbous Greek domes of the cathedral. Here and there was the slender spire of a minaret, criss-crossed with telephone wires. The street opened into a vast square, a sea of mud and cobbles bounded by wretched huts, across which marched steel poles carrying hundreds of wires and huge modern arc lights. Heavy hipped peasant women plowed through the mud to the great square fountain in the centre, with earthen water jars of gay pattern balanced on their heads. Nearby an ox lay on his back, feet clewed up to a wooden beam, while peasants shod him with solid iron plates, as they had done it for half a thousand years.

## AUSTRIAN PRISONERS IN UNIFORM.

wandered freely everywhere, without a guard. Some drove waggons, others dug ditches, and hundreds loitered up and down in idleness. We learned that by paying fifty denars to the Government, you could have one for a servant. All the Legations and Consulates were manned with them. And the prisoners were glad to be servants, for there was no decent place for them to live, and scanty food. Now and then an Austrian officer passed along, in full uniform and with his sword.

"Escape?" said one Government official we interrogated. "No, they do not try. The roads are meters deep in mud, the villages are depopulated and full of disease, there is no food. . . . It is difficult enough to travel by train in Serbia—on foot it would be impossible. And there are the guards all along the frontier."

We passed a big hospital where pale prisoners leaned from the windows upon dirty blankets, dragged themselves in and out of the doors, and lay propped up on piles of drying mud along the road. These were only survivors; for out of the sixty thousand Austrians captured in the war, twelve thousand were already dead of typhus.

Beyond the square was the street again, between rough one-storey houses,

and we were in the market place. A dull roar rose from the haggling of hundreds of peasants in ten different national costumes—homespun linen embroidered with flowers, high fur hats, fezes, turbans and infinite varieties and modifications of Turkish trousers. Pigs squealed, hens squawked; underfoot were heaped baskets of eggs and herbs and vegetables and red peppers; majestic old men in sheepskins shuffled along with lambs in their arms. Here was the centre of the town. There were two or three restaurants and foul-smelling cafes, the dingy Hotel Orient, the inevitable American shoe store, and amid cheap little shops sudden windows ablaze with expensive jewellery and extravagant women's hats.

## OVERCROWDED HOSPITALS.

Along the sidewalks elbowed a multitude of strangely assorted people: gypsies, poverty stricken peasants, gendarmes with great swords, in red and blue uniforms, tax collectors dressed like generals, also with swords, smart army officers hung with medals, soldiers in filthy tatters, their feet bound with rags—soldiers,umping, staggering on crutches, without arms, without legs, discharged from the overcrowded hospitals still blue and shaking from the typhus—and everywhere the Austrian prisoners. Government officials hurried by with portfolios under their arms. Fat Jewish army contractors hobnobbed with political hangers-on over maculate cafe tables. Women government clerks, wives and mistresses of officers, society women from Belgrade, shouldered the peasant women in their humped-up gay skirts, their high coloured necks. The Government from Belgrade had taken refuge in Nish, and a mountain village of twenty thousand inhabitants had become a city of one hundred and twenty thousand—not counting those who died.

For the typhus had swept the town, where people were living six and ten in a room, until everywhere the black flags flapped in long, sinister vistas, and the windows of the cafes were plastered with black paper death notices.

We crossed the muddy Nishava River on the bridge which leads to the heavy, arabesqued gate of the ancient Turkish citadel, which was Roman before the Turks, and where Constantine the Great was born. On the grass along the foot of the great wall sprawled hundreds of soldiers, sleeping, scratching themselves, stripping and searching their bodies for lice, tossing and twisting in fever. Everywhere about Nish, wherever there was a spot of worn grass, the miserable people clustered, picking vermin from each other.

The stench of the city was appalling. In the side streets open sewers trickled down among the cobbles. Some sanitary measures had been taken—such as the closing of cafes and restaurants from two o'clock until six every day in order to disinfect them—but still it was an even chance for the typhus if you stayed in a hotel or public building.

Such was Nish, as we first saw it. Two weeks later we returned, after the rains had altogether ceased, and the hot sun had dried the streets. It was a few days after the Feast of Saint George, which marks the coming of the spring in Serbia. On that day all Serbia rises at three o'clock in the morning and goes out into the woods and fields before dawn, gathering flowers, and dancing and singing and feasting all day. And even here, in this filthy, overcrowded town, with the tragic sadness of

## WAR AND PESTILENCE OVER EVERY HOUSE,

the streets were a gay sight. The men peasants had changed their dirty heavy woollens and sheepskins for the summer suit of embroidered dazzling linen.



## SPOTTED TYPHUS ON THE CONTINENT.

### THE WORST OF WAR EPIDEMICS.

(SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR "THE PRESS.")

(BY MRS JULIAN GRANDE.)

GENEVA, February 21.

The International Red Cross League in Geneva is appalled by the reports reaching it from all parts of what was once the Russian Empire, especially Poland, Lithuania, and Galicia, and also from Serbia, Roumania, and the Balkans generally, concerning the outbreak of what is known as "spotted typhus." The medical authorities in these countries can do little or nothing to stop the ravages of this singularly mortal disease. The Swiss sanitary authorities have taken severe measures to prevent the reintroduction of this scourge into their country, which has now been free from it for three-quarters of a century. Every person coming into Switzerland from any part of Europe infected with spotted typhus is obliged to undergo a strict medical examination at the Swiss frontier, and on the slightest suspicion of danger he is liable to be quarantined, to have his luggage disinfected, and even his clothing subjected to a germ-killing process.

Some Swiss medical men, indeed, who have just returned from infected districts, declare that this spotted typhus is by far the worst of all war epidemics.

"The art of killing," remarked one physician, "has made great progress, but that of preventing the outbreak of epidemics which decimate both armies in the field and the civilian population has even now advanced comparatively little. In the countries where spotted typhus is now raging, however, it has never been realised that it is not enough to have plenty of surgeons in war-time to bind up wounds, but that a number of specialists in epidemics are needed to prevent either soldiers or civilians from becoming decimated. Neither in what was Russia nor in Poland, Galicia, Roumania, or Serbia is this understood."

No one, apparently, has positively ascertained how spotted typhus is propagated; consequently no one positively knows how to combat it. It is exceedingly contagious—of this there is no possible doubt. Thus in 1915, when Serbia suffered from her second outbreak of the disease, which was brought by Austrian prisoners and lasted about five months, there were 120,000 civilian victims, besides 11,000 soldiers, not to speak of 140 out of the 350 medical men which the country then possessed having fallen victims to the risks connected with treating spotted typhus patients. Several medical students also lost their lives, and a large number of male nurses; and of the Swiss medical men who went to Serbia to help to struggle with this scourge, two died from it.

"The sufferings of spotted typhus patients," remarked one medical man who has visited several infected countries, "are acute. The disease is generally incubating for ten days. When it actually breaks out, the patient shivers violently and then trembles all over. He becomes giddy, his pulse is very rapid, and his temperature rises sometimes to 102 or 103°F. Gradually his whole body, except the face, becomes covered with the spots which have given this disease its popular name of spotted. In the early stages of the complaint, the patients are delirious and frequently try to commit suicide, after which they become torpid and sink into a state of stupor. From ten to fifty-five per cent. of cases are fatal, frequently owing to heart failure. Men apparently die oftener than women, and older persons have less chance of recovery than younger."

There is no doubt that some very close connexion exists between dirt and insanitary conditions generally and spotted typhus. This has been noticed by all medical men who have visited infected districts. What might really be called a form of pestilence was generally worse where people lived in overcrowded houses, and in conditions of extreme poverty, aggravated by privations and over-fatigue.

Contagious as is this disease, specialists are even now not agreed as to how it is transmitted—a fact which must be definitely ascertained if it is to be successfully eradicated. There are three

main theories as to its propagation—by means of the respiratory organs, by contact with a patient, and through lice. So difficult is it to prevent those attending on spotted typhus patients from catching the disease, that male nurses in Serbia who wore a mask while at work, and breathed through three pads of cotton wool, nevertheless caught it, which seems to indicate that it is most easily caught through contact.

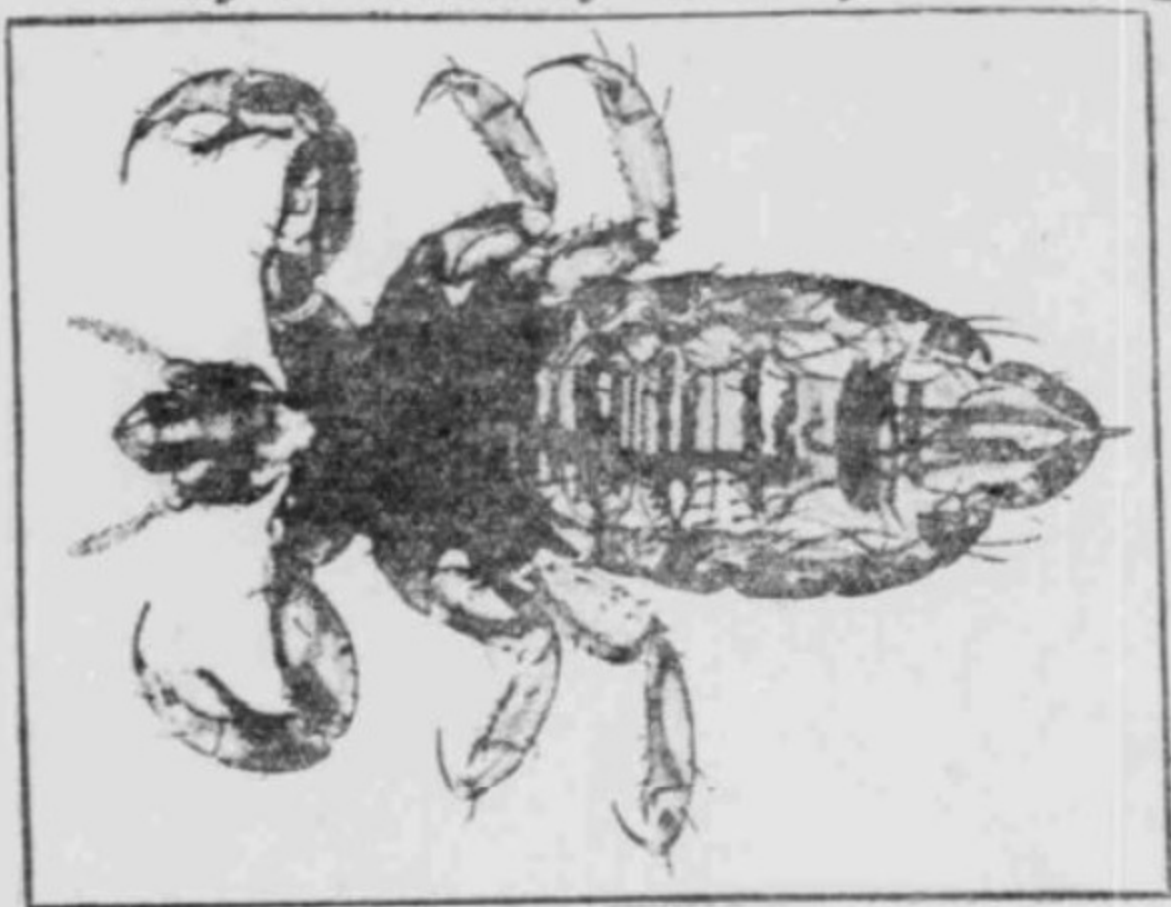
The present tendency, however, is to attribute the propagation of this most dread scourge to lice; and as the scarcity of disinfectants in the countries now infected by spotted typhus is so great, there is very little hope of immediately checking the epidemic, supposing it to be really mainly spread by these small insects. The League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva is trying to supply as many medical necessities as possible, but the areas infected are too vast for even their efforts to produce much result.

In Warsaw, Lodz, Suwalki, Biellostock, Grodno, Kovno, Minsk, and in the smaller towns and villages in Poland and Lithuania, spotted typhus is spreading. Thus there are more hearses at present seen passing along the streets of Warsaw than motor-cars; and it is not rare to see twenty funerals pass by the British Legation in a single hour. It need hardly be said that the help being given by charitable persons in England to these spotted typhus infested countries is keenly appreciated, and even in remote districts of Poland, Galicia, and Serbia, the action of the Lord Mayor and citizens of Birmingham, for instance, is known. The inhabitants of these infected areas often speak of the Society of Friends, and look to it for further aid.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/press/1920/04/26/8>



# Cooties' Greatest Foe Finds a Way to Destroy 'Em by Cleaning



PHOTOGRAPH OF A COOTIE, GREATLY ENLARGED.

SAN MATEO, Calif., April 1.—  
Ex-doughboys, let's give three cheers  
for one of the greatest heroes of the  
world war!

He's Dr. Dwight Pierce, who lives  
here.

He didn't capture a machine-  
gun nest single-  
handed or run  
with dispatches  
under shell fire.

But he in-  
vented a method  
of exterminating  
cooties that  
doesn't cause  
your uniform to  
shrink so it looks  
as if had been  
made for your  
kid brother.

He's just com-  
pleted a book  
on "Sanitary

Entomology," devoted to cooties and  
cooties' kindred.

Pierce, an entomologist, was em-  
ployed by the government during the  
war to investigate disease-carrying  
vermin.

## More Dangerous Than Gas.

He says the cootie was more dan-  
gerous than lethal gas or high-ex-  
plosive bombs. Because cooties car-  
ried typhus and trench fever.

When Pierce had to have a human  
subject to experiment on in finding  
a delousing method, an aged man,  
with a son in the army, submitted  
himself.

The subject had to undergo fright-  
ful pain, but he bore it stoically,  
thinking he would make life easier  
for his son overseas and his son's  
comrades.

The experiments resulted in a  
method of dry cleaning that kills the  
cooties but saves the uniform.

Again, buddies, three cheers for  
the cootie fighter!



PIERCE.



# Choking Agent: CG

**Synonyms:** Phosgene  
Carbon dichloride oxide  
Carbon oxychloride  
Carbonyl chloride  
Carbonyl dichloride  
Chloroformyl chloride  
Dichloroformaldehyde

<b>Molecular Formula</b>	CCl <sub>2</sub> O	<b>Molecular Weight</b>	98.92
<b>Boiling Point</b>	7.6°	<b>Melting Point</b>	-128°

## Historical Notes

The first reported synthesis of CG was in 1812 by John Davy, who obtained it by using sunlight to promote the reaction of carbon monoxide with chlorine in one of the earliest experiments in photochemistry. Its common name, phosgene, reflects this origin, being a combination of the Greek *phos* (light) and *genes* (born).

It became important in industry at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as an intermediate in the production of dyes.

## World War I

Phosgene was used first by the Germans (along with chlorine) on 19 December, 1915 at Ypres in Flanders. The attack was a cloud attack that required some 4000 cylinders containing around 88 tons of phosgene. The effect of the German phosgene attack was to some degree mitigated by the fact that the British had developed a “gas helmet,” a flannel hood (with a celluloid eyepiece) that could be impregnated with chemicals that would act to neutralize agents. This hood, impregnated with a phenolate solution and known as the P. helmet, was issued in the summer of 1915. Despite this, the first attack produced well over a thousand casualties, including 120 deaths.

*While phosgene was occasionally used alone, it was much more common for it to be used in combinations, especially with chlorine (which helped eject the phosgene from containers) as was done by the Germans. The Germans were not alone – the British, for instance, favored a 1:1 chlorine:phosgene mixture they codenamed White Star.*

In January, 1916, shortly after the first phosgene attack, the modified P.H. helmet – for which hexamethylenetetramine was added to the materials used to impregnate the hoods to give increased protection against phosgene (on advice from Russia) – began to be issued. In June of 1916 the British began to use the White Star phosgene mixture to support attacks in the Somme. While a massive release planned for right before the start of the offensive had to be cancelled due to unfavorable weather, almost 10,000 cylinders were used between June 26 and July 1.

Phosgene was seen as particularly useful because of its latent period, which had the effect in some circumstances of making it necessary to send soldiers who were only suspected of having been exposed to the rear. This made it very valuable in disrupting units. At the same time, the relatively low persistence of phosgene made it suitable for use to soften up positions before an attack, since it would be less likely than agents like mustard gas to be a hazard to one's own troops.

The Germans produced over 18,000 tons of phosgene during the war, followed closely by the French (with just under 16,000 tons). The Americans and the British, in contrast, produced relatively small amounts - about 1400 tons each – but were allowed to use French phosgene.

Towards the end of the war, the Germans also experimented with particulation of phosgene, adsorbing it on pumice granules, with the goal of producing a more persistent agent. The granules were incorporated in shells for a 158 mm gas projector. It is unclear if they were used in combat.

While phosgene never achieved the public notoriety of mustard gas, it was probably the most lethal gas fielded during the First World War. In one study of gas exposure cases, it was found that 17% of those exposed to phosgene died. Some estimates suggest that phosgene was responsible for over 85% of the deaths caused by chemical weapons during the war.

## Post-World War I

The lethality of phosgene ensured that it had a place in the arsenals of essentially every nation with a chemical capability after the First World War. It was relied on to different degrees in different countries, however. As World War II loomed, the French had given it primacy of place (based on the variety of munitions they filled with it) even over mustard gas, while the Czechs (preferring mustard gas) had just enough on hand to test gas mask filters.



# Conscription in the United Kingdom

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Conscription in the United Kingdom has existed for two periods in modern times. The first was from 1916 to 1920, the second from 1939 to 1960, with the last conscripted soldiers leaving the service in 1963. Known as Military Service from 1916 to 1920, the system of conscription from 1939 to 1960 was called National Service, but between 1939 and 1948, it was often referred to as "war service" in documents relating to National Insurance and pension provision.

## First World War [\[ edit \]](#)

See also: *Recruitment to the British Army during the First World War and Opposition to World War I*

Conscription during the First World War began when the [British](#) government passed the [Military Service Act](#) in January 1916. The act specified that single men aged 18 to 40 years old were liable to be called up for military service unless they were widowed with children or ministers of a religion. There was a system of [Military Service Tribunals](#) to adjudicate upon claims for exemption upon the grounds of performing civilian work of national importance, domestic hardship, health, and [conscientious objection](#). The law went through several changes before the war ended. Married men were exempt in the original Act, although this was changed in June 1916. The age limit was also eventually raised to 51 years old. Recognition of work of national importance also diminished, and in the last year of the war there was some support for the conscription of clergy.<sup>[1]</sup> Conscription lasted until mid-1919.

## Conscription

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Conscription**, sometimes called **the draft**, is the compulsory enlistment of people in a **national service**, most often a **military service**.<sup>[1]</sup> Conscription dates back to antiquity and continues in some countries to the present day under various names. The modern system of near-universal national conscription for young men dates to the **French Revolution** in the **1790s**, where it became the basis of a very large and powerful **military**. Most **European** nations later copied the system in peacetime, so that men at a certain age would serve 1–8 years on **active duty** and then transfer to the **reserve force**.

**Conscription**

- Military service
- National service
- Conscription crisis
- Conscientious objector
- Alternative civilian service

**Conscription by country**

V · T · E

### In modern times [\[ edit \]](#)

See also: *Remplacement*

Modern conscription, the massed military enlistment of national citizens, was devised during the French Revolution, to enable the Republic to defend itself from the attacks of European monarchies. Deputy [Jean-Baptiste Jourdan](#) gave its name to the 5 September 1798 Act, whose first article stated: "Any Frenchman is a soldier and owes himself to the defense of the nation." It enabled the creation of the *Grande Armée*, what [Napoleon Bonaparte](#) called "the nation in arms", which overwhelmed European professional armies that often numbered only into the low tens of thousands. More than 2.6 million men were inducted into the French military in this way between the years 1800 and 1813.<sup>[17]</sup>



In the decades prior to World War I universal conscription along broadly Prussian lines became the norm for European armies, and those modeled on them. By 1914 the only substantial armies still completely dependent on voluntary enlistment were those of Britain and the United States. Some colonial powers such as France reserved their conscript armies for home service while maintaining professional units for overseas duties.

# Opposition to World War I

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Great Britain [\[ edit \]](#)

In Britain, some people resisted [conscription](#). By 1918 several distinguished people were imprisoned for their opposition to it, including "the nation's leading investigative journalist, a future winner of the Nobel Prize, more than half a dozen future members of Parliament, one future cabinet minister, and a former newspaper editor who was publishing a clandestine journal for his fellow inmates on toilet paper."<sup>[9]</sup> One of them was [Bertrand Russell](#) - a mathematician, philosopher and social critic engaged in pacifist activities, who was dismissed from [Trinity College, Cambridge](#) following his conviction under the [Defence of the Realm Act](#) in 1916. A later conviction resulted in six months' of imprisonment in Brixton prison from which he was released in September 1918.

Despite mainstream Labour Party's support for the war effort, the Independent Labour Party was instrumental in opposing conscription through organisations such as the Non-Conscription Fellowship while a Labour Party affiliate, the British Socialist Party, organised a number of unofficial strikes. Arthur Henderson resigned from the Cabinet in 1917 amid calls for party unity to be replaced by George Barnes. Overall, however, the majority of the movement continued to support the war for the duration of the conflict, and the British Labour Party, unlike most of its equivalents on the Continent, did not split over the war.<sup>[10]</sup>



# Recruitment to the British Army during the First World War

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For a century, British governmental policy and public opinion was against **conscription** for foreign wars.

At the beginning of 1914 the **British Army** had a reported strength of 710,000 men including reserves, of which around 80,000 were regular troops ready for war. By the end of the **First World War** almost 1 in 4 of the total male population of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland** had joined up, over five million men. Of these men, 2.67 million joined as Volunteers and 2.77 million as conscripts (although some volunteered after **conscription** was introduced and would most likely have been conscripted anyway). **Monthly recruiting rates** for the army varied dramatically.

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1 <b>August 1914</b>
2 <b>Volunteer Army, 1914–15</b>
3 <b>The Derby Scheme</b>
4 <b><u>Conscription 1916–18</u></b>
5 <b>Ireland</b>
6 <b>Recruiting staff</b>
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## Conscription 1916–18  [edit]

Since there were too few volunteers to fill the ranks, the **Military Service Bill** was introduced in January 1916, providing for the conscription of single men aged 18–41. Every single man and childless widower between 18 and 41 was offered three choices:

- Enlist at once.
- Attest at once under Derby’s system.
- Or on 2 March 1916 be automatically deemed to have enlisted.

In May 1916 the bill was extended to married men and in April 1918 the upper age was raised to 50 (or to 56 if need arose). Ireland, which was part of the United Kingdom at the time, was excluded from the scheme.

As Henderson had warned compulsion did not go smoothly. By July 1916 93,000 (30%) of those called had failed to appear, that summer and autumn likely-looking men in public places were rounded up.<sup>[17]</sup> It was primarily a protest, since few of the no-shows could have hoped to escape, although a few were hidden by sympathizers.<sup>[18]</sup>

Men called up for military service or their employers could appeal to a civilian **Military Service Tribunal** in their town or district on the grounds of work of national importance, business or domestic hardship, medical unfitness, or **conscientious objection**. By the end of June 1916, 748,587 men had appealed.<sup>[19]</sup> The standards of the tribunals were capricious: in York a case was determined in an average of eleven minutes, two minutes was the rule at Paddington in London.<sup>[20]</sup>

## Military Service Act 1916

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Redirected from **Military Service Act (United Kingdom)**)

The **Military Service Act 1916** was an **Act** passed by the **Parliament of the United Kingdom** during the **First World War**.

### The Act  [edit]



1916 poster publicising the Act

The Bill which became the Act was introduced by Prime Minister H. H. Asquith in January 1916. It came into force on 2 March 1916. Previously the British Government had relied on voluntary enlistment, and latterly a kind of moral conscription called the Derby Scheme.

The conscription issue divided the **Liberal Party** including the Cabinet. Sir John Simon resigned as Home Secretary and attacked the government in his resignation speech in the House of Commons, where 35 Liberals voted against the bill, alongside with 13 **Labour** MPs and 59 **Irish Nationalists**.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Act specified that men from 18 to 41 years old were liable to be called up for service in the army unless they were married, widowed with children, serving in the Royal Navy, a minister of religion, or working in one of a number of reserved occupations. A second Act in May 1916 extended liability for military service to married men, and a third Act in 1918 extended the upper age limit to 51.



Iconic First World War **recruitment poster** featuring **Lord Kitchener** (Alfred Leete 1882 –1933)



# **MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1916**

Every man to whom the Act applies will on Thursday, March 2nd, be deemed to have enlisted for the period of the War unless he is excepted or exempt.

Any man who has adequate grounds for applying to a Local Tribunal for a

**CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION** UNDER THIS ACT

Must do so BEFORE  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 2**

Why wait for the Act to apply to you?

Come now and join of your own free will.

You can at once put your claim for exemption from being called up before a Local Tribunal if you wish.

**ATTEST NOW**





WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE,  
entertained by the King and Queen.

## PARLIAMENT. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at a quarter to three o'clock.

**THE CONTRABAND COMMITTEE.**  
Sir E. GREY told Commander Bellairs (U., Maidstone) that the Admiralty was represented on the Contraband Committee by Captain Longden, R.N., assisted, when necessary, by Lieutenant W. Arnold-Forster, R.N.V.R.

**STATE OF EXCHANGED PRISONERS.**  
Mr. Malcolm (U., Croydon) was informed by Mr. TENNANT that, owing to the stringent definition of incapacity laid down in the regulations for the exchange of prisoners between this country and Germany, it was impossible that any of those exchanged would be able to fight again, at home or abroad.

**GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTEERS.**  
Mr. TENNANT, in answer to Sir W. Bull (U., Hammersmith), said an Order in Council was not required for the purpose of bringing the Volunteers under the Act of 1863. The procedure was that Lords-Lieutenant of counties should make offers of service by Volunteers, and they had been so instructed. Details of the necessary regulations were being worked out by the proper branches of the War Office.

In reply to further questions, Mr. TENNANT said no time would be lost in issuing the regulations. The War Office had to wait until they heard from the Lords-Lieutenant as to the numbers to be expected, and the War Office had not that information yet.

**RESIGNATION OF GENERAL LONG.**  
Mr. TENNANT, in reply to Mr. Brookes (U., Mile-end), said Major-General S. S. Long retired of his own accord, and he could not state his motives, which were personal to himself.

**POSITION OF ATTESTED MEN.**  
Mr. GLYN-JONES (R., Stepney) asked whether married men who attested voluntarily, at a time when they were in a reserved or certified occupation, could be assured that they would not be called to the colours against their wish except under the decision of the Central Tribunal.

Mr. TENNANT: The decision as to whether voluntarily attested men can be exempted from being called up for service must rest with the local tribunal. If the claimant is not satisfied with the decision of the local tribunal he can make an appeal to the Appeal Tribunal, but can only appeal to the Central Tribunal by permission of the Appeal Tribunal. I am sure these patriotic men can rely upon obtaining the same measure of justice from the local and appeal tribunals as my hon. friend thinks they would have obtained under the regulations previously in force.

Mr. GLYN-JONES: Is it not a fact that these voluntarily-attested married men were asked to attest under the condition that their cases would be dealt with by the Central Tribunal, and whether under the changed arrangements these men have to submit their case to the local tribunals and are debarred from going to the Central Tribunal; and will the right hon. gentleman give an undertaking that married men voluntarily attested shall be placed in the same position as they were in at the time they attested?

Mr. TENNANT: I do not know whether it is a fact that these men, when asked to attest, were given the engagement my hon. friend mentions. I understand from him that it was done, but it is not possible in every case to assimilate the position of the two classes—the men who came under the Act, and the men who have voluntarily attested. We cannot go further than we can go. (Laughter.)

Mr. GLYN-JONES: Does the right hon. gentleman suggest that the Government cannot keep faith with these married men?  
No answer was given.

### MILITARY SERVICE. RESERVED TRADES LIST. GOVERNMENT DECISION.

The House proceeded to consider the report of Votes A and 1 of the Army Estimates. On the report of the vote for 4,000,000 men of all ranks for the Army.

Mr. ASHLEY (U., Blackpool) complained of the injustice done to farmers in connection with the requisitioning by the military authorities of agricultural implements. The dog-in-the-manger policy adopted was delaying agricultural operations in a meaningless way, to the detriment of the country's food supply.

Captain TRYON (U., Brighton) said there were difficulties impeding progress, such as those of the married men, who felt they were treated unjustly by the excessive exemptions of single men, and those connected with the uncertainties of medical inspection. Nearly all the difficulties were due to the delay of the Government in the past, and could be removed by more vigorous administration. From the first moment of the war they should have worked out a scheme of compulsion to be put into force when it was seen voluntarism had failed. If they had had the men the position in the Dardanelles and in Mesopotamia would have been very different.

Mr. PRINGLE (R., Larkshire, N.W.): They had not rifles for the men.

Captain TRYON replied that that argument was used not to get rifles but to avoid obtaining men. (Cheers.) The fact was that the Government were paying a good deal too much attention to a small group of men, many of whom would not be in the House if there were a General Election. (Hear, hear.) He was not sure that either Sir J. Simon or Mr. Snowden would be returned at an election. The latter's speeches were circulated by the Germans, with those of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, all over the United States, so as to influence public opinion there against Great Britain.

### "SHELTERING THE SHIRKERS."

The Government should enforce the penal clauses of the National Registration Act. (Hear, hear.) The number of men who were evading military service by changing their place of residence was far greater than many people imagined.

Mr. PRINGLE: Hear, hear.  
Lieut. Colonel HENDERSON: That is the first time I have ever heard the hon. gentleman applaud anything which would bring men to the colours. I hope it foreshadows a new departure. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. PRINGLE: I have done as much to bring men to the colours as you have.

Sir TUDOR WALTERS (R., Brightside): I protest against these insulting reflections by military gentlemen. (Cheers.)

Lieut. Colonel HENDERSON: I am making no insulting reflections; I am only saying what is perfectly obvious. Hon. gentlemen who have been associated with Sir John Simon have hampered the authorities in getting men for the Army. They have sheltered every shirker. (Cheers.)

Sir TUDOR WALTERS: That is not true.

Lieut. Colonel HENDERSON: In the past they

have done practically nothing to assist the voluntary system. (Cheers.)

Mr. PRINGLE: That is absolutely untrue. (Hear, hear.)

Lieut. Colonel HENDERSON said he made an exception in the case of Mr. J. H. Thomas, who assisted the voluntary system to the fullest extent of his powers. (Hear, hear.) But other hon. members to whom he was referring had done absolutely nothing, and it was largely owing to them that the compulsory system had to be introduced. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GLYN-JONES (R., Stepney) believed that the mass of the people were willing to support any measure of compulsion which was proved to be necessary, but what they would not stand was the obtaining of men by a breach of faith. Married men in reserved occupations had a very real grievance, having joined the Army on the distinct condition that if they were wanted each man would only have to go before the Central Tribunal in London. Now, after they had voluntarily enlisted, the conditions were changed, and they were told they would have to go before the local tribunals, like everybody else.

### THE WIDOW'S SON.

Mr. LONG interrupted to say that the hon. member was putting the case unfairly. It was not a case of contract or breach of faith. It was the substitution of one kind of machinery for another. During the debates on the Military Service Bill the whole House urged that the principles of the bill should apply to the Derby men. The Government were quite willing to consider the case of the men mentioned by Mr. Glyn-Jones, but he asked the hon. member not to talk of breach of faith.

Mr. GLYN-JONES said he was not accusing any member of the Government of a deliberate breach of faith, but owing to the tremendous confusion we had got into, and the rate at which we were going, members of the Cabinet were unable to keep pace with what was taking place. The Government could not change the conditions on which they asked these married men to enlist, and then say it was not a breach of faith. If there were any difficulty the man must be given the right to be let off.

Mr. LOUGH (R., Islington, W.) said that the Government had got into a muddle over recruiting, and the uncertainties should be removed by a definite announcement of policy. It was impossible to get from the single men the numbers required, and the supporters of compulsion ought to have put forward a more honest policy. Single men, however, were mainly voteless men, but married men were voters, and the Government were afraid of their agitation. Was it not time for the Government to make a definite statement of the numbers they required?

Sir J. D. REES (U., Nottingham, E.) considered that the married men would have a ground for complaint until the Government had hunted out the single men.

As for Mesopotamia, he could not, for the life of him, understand why we went beyond Bagra. In view of the nature of the country, the Russians had done wonders, and perhaps we were not doing so badly as was thought in some quarters.

Commander BELLAIRS (U., Maidstone) agreed with those who held that the only way out of the difficulties in which we found ourselves with regard to recruiting was to adopt compulsion for men of all classes and all ages.

### MR. LONG. DEFENCE OF THE TRIBUNALS.

Mr. LONG contended that whatever powers might be given to the military authorities in this country, there was no fear of rushing civil control. In dealing with this question, the Government was bound to provide for certain exceptions and exemptions, and there was no ground for the charge made against the

Government in certain quarters that in their desire to get soldiers they had ignored the commercial needs of the country. Their first duty to the nation was to see that its armies in the field were adequate, and he contended that the course adopted by the Government had been right and wise. Though the tribunals had made some mistakes, on the whole they had done their work with credit to themselves and with advantage to the country.

As to the conscientious objector, there had been cases in which tribunals had taken a wrong view both of the Act and the regulations, and he had issued a circular on the subject. Every single case in which tribunals made a mistake was brought up in the House of Commons—(cries of "No, no")—and he was asked a question about it. They did not, however, hear the other side of the story. On the whole the tribunals were doing their work well, and he was not prepared to admit that the criticism directed against them, from whatever quarter it came, was based upon fact. (Hear, hear.)

With regard to the point made by Mr. Glyn-Jones, it was perfectly true that under the old procedure married men who attested voluntarily at a time when they were in a reserved occupation had the right to have their case decided by the Central Tribunal. It never entered the heads of the Government that in setting up under the Military Service Act two appeal tribunals—the County Appeal Tribunal and the Central Appeal Tribunal—they were doing any injustice to such men.

If there was a strong feeling on the point he would consult with the War Office and see if it was not possible, without in any way upsetting the structure of the Act or the regulations, to secure for them the opportunity which was fairly given to them by the regulations under which they enlisted. (Cheers.)

The Government, he continued, never undertook that no married men would be called to the colours until every married man had been taken, and the married men's grievance would only be a real one if it could be shown that the Government were not doing their best to get the single men into the Army.

### SECURING THE MEN.

Sir A. MOND (R., Swansea) said the grievance of the married men was that they had been called up before the "tooth-combing" process had been carried out. The result was that some of them had been summoned to the colours earlier than would otherwise have been the case.

The House had voted an establishment of four million men for the Army, but nobody would contradict him when he said we had not reached that figure. Surely it was the business of the Government to take all necessary steps, even by widening the scope of the Military Service Act, to secure that four millions. The idea that the war would be won by the financial exhaustion of the enemy was a most dangerous one. (Hear, hear.) If we wished to impose on Germany the terms of peace stated by the Prime Minister, and which we all desired, there was only one way to do it, and that was by military victory. (Hear, hear.) We should never compel the Germans to make peace on our terms unless we beat their armies in the field. (Cheers.) Therefore we should concentrate on the question of the Army and let other things go. (Cheers.) People talked about land going out of cultivation. How much land had gone out of cultivation in France? How much land had gone out of cultivation in Germany?

Mr. HOLT (R., Hexham): What is the consequence?

Sir A. MOND: The consequence is that the Germans are still on the offensive. (Hear, hear.)

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